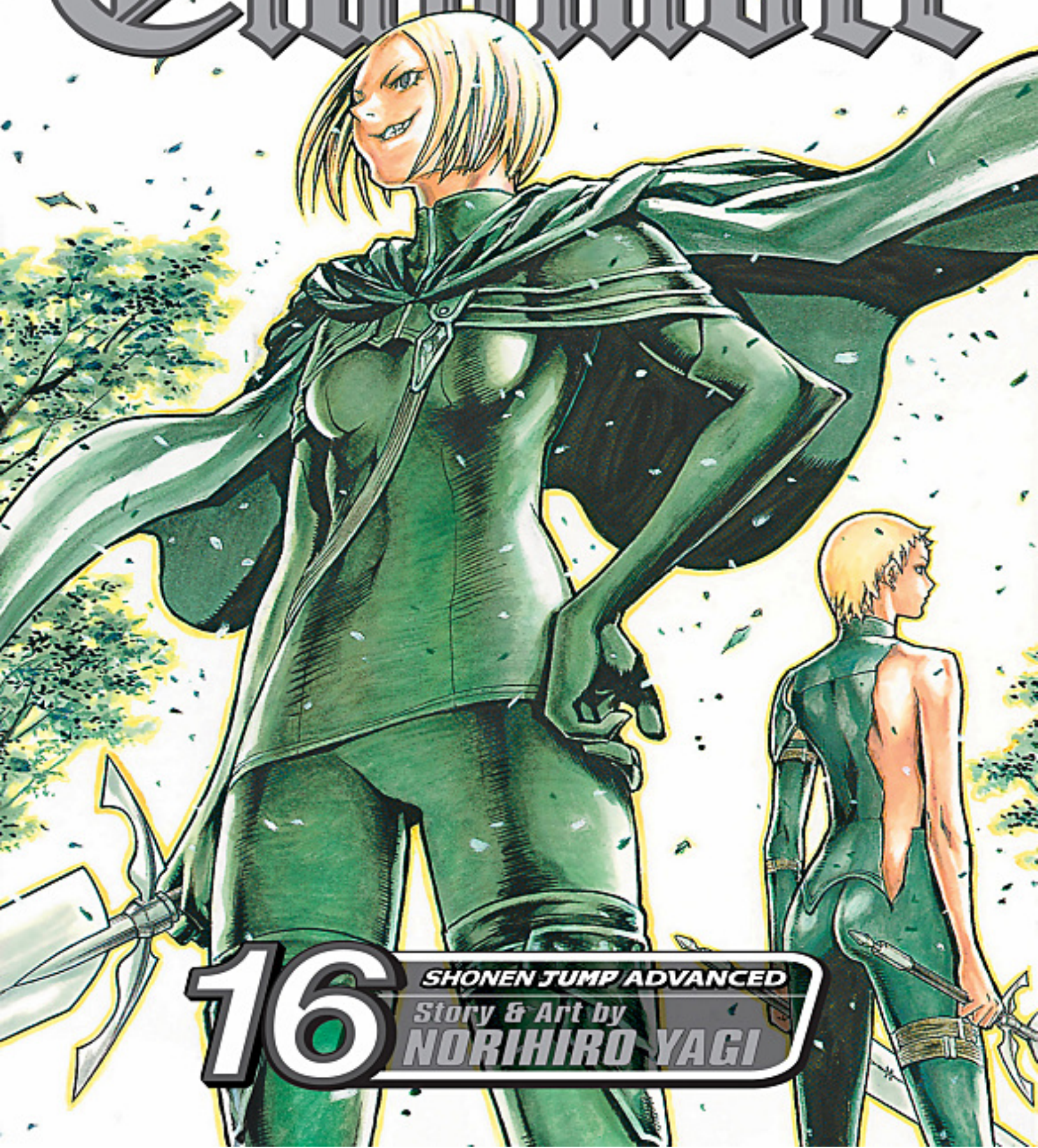


クレイモア

Clammore

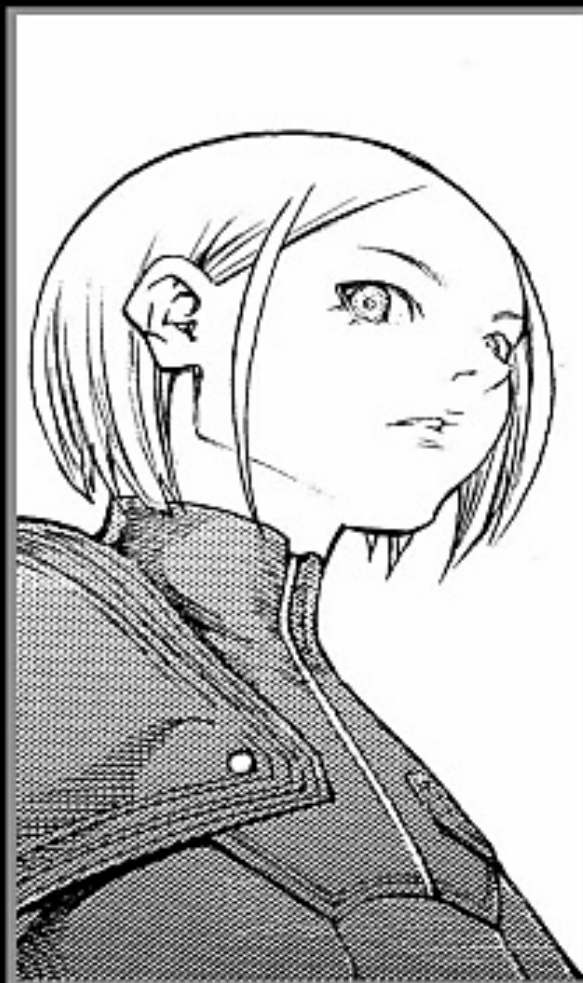


16

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

NORIHIRO YAGI



Norihiro Yagi won the 32nd Akatsuka Award for his debut work, *UNDEADMAN*, which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* magazine and produced two sequels. His first serialized manga was his comedy *Angel Densetsu* (Angel Legend), which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* from 1992 to 2000. His epic saga, *Claymore*, is running in *Monthly Jump Square* magazine.

In his spare time, Yagi enjoys things like the Japanese comedic duo Downtown, martial arts, games, driving, and hard rock music, but he doesn't consider these actual hobbies.

CLAYMORE VOL. 16
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
NORIHIRO YAGI

English Adaptation & Translation/Arashi Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Design/Courtney Utt
Editor/Leyla Aker

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SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

クレイモア Claymore



Vol. 16 The Lamentation of the Earth

Story and Art by Norihiro Yagi

The Story Thus Far

Creatures known as Yoma have long preyed on humans, who were once powerless against their predators. But now mankind has developed female warriors who are half human and half monster, with silver eyes that can see the monsters' true form. These warriors came to be called Claymores after the immense broadswords that they carried.

Creatures known as Yoma have long preyed on humans, who were once powerless against their predators. But now mankind has developed female warriors who are half human and half monster, with silver eyes that can see the monsters' true form. These warriors came to be called Claymores after the immense broadswords that they carried.



It's seven years after the Battle of the North, and Clare and her comrades have come to the holy city of Rabona. In the aftermath of their battle with the Awakened Being Agatha, Miria reveals some shocking truths about the Organization. As Clare departs Rabona on a new journey, she runs into Rubel, the man who used to be her Watcher for the Organization.

クレイモア Claymore

Vol. 16

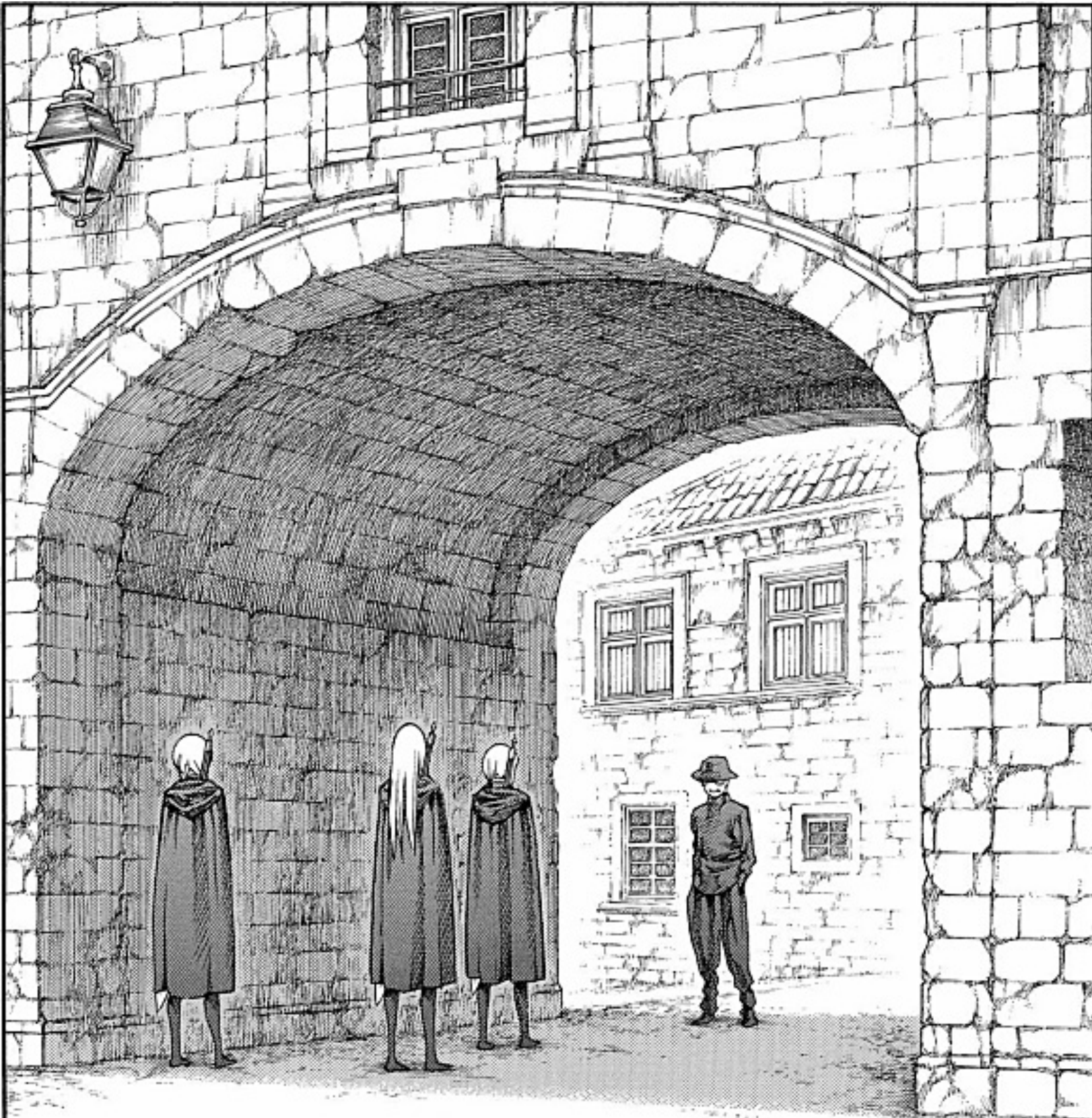
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Scene 85	The Lamentation of the Earth, Part 3	39
Scene 86	The Lamentation of the Earth, Part 4	71
Scene 87	The Lamentation of the Earth, Part 5	103
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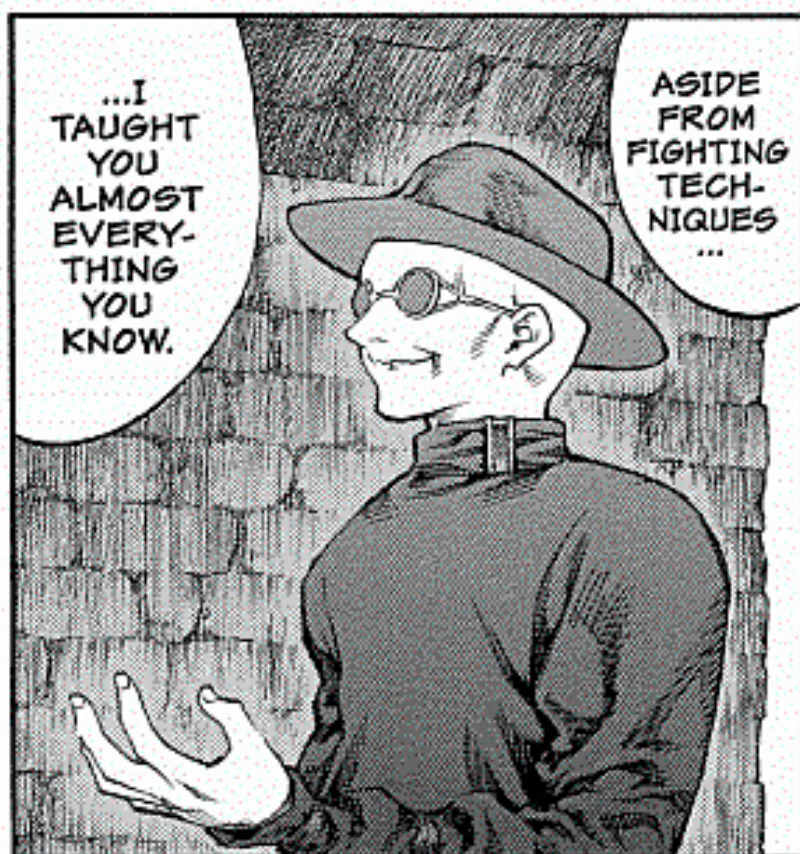
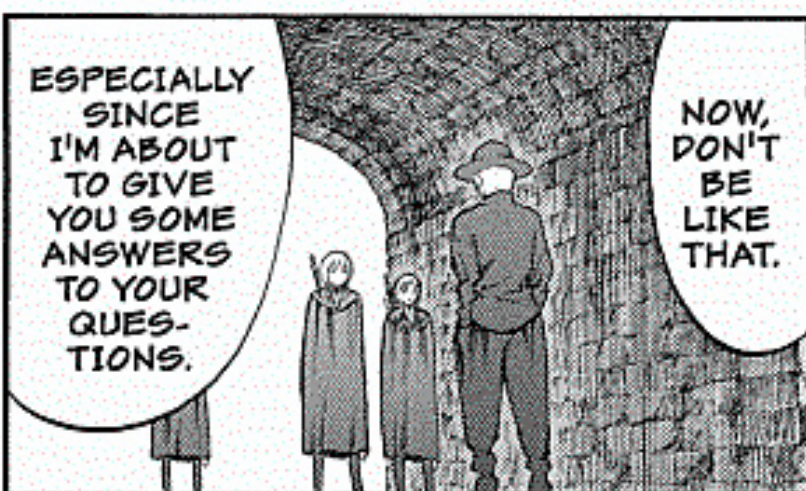
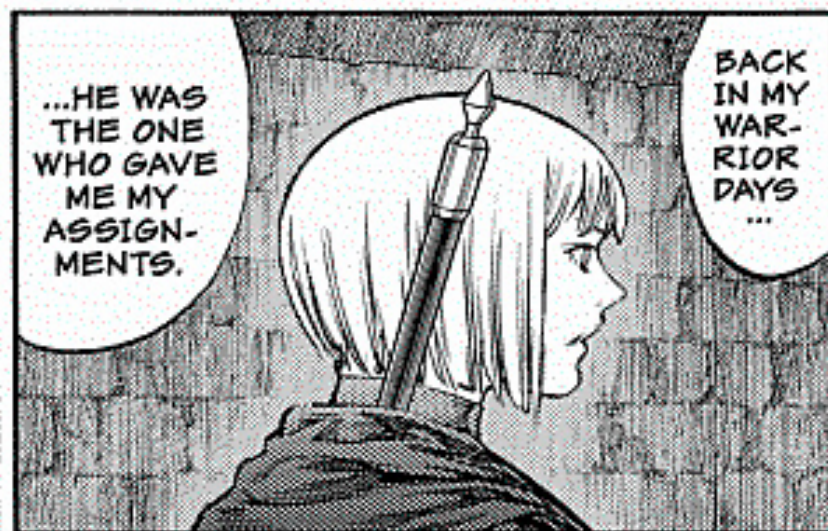
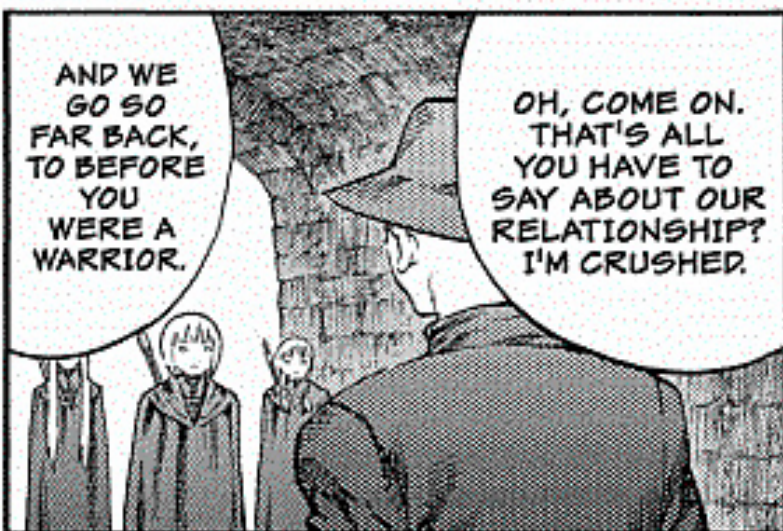
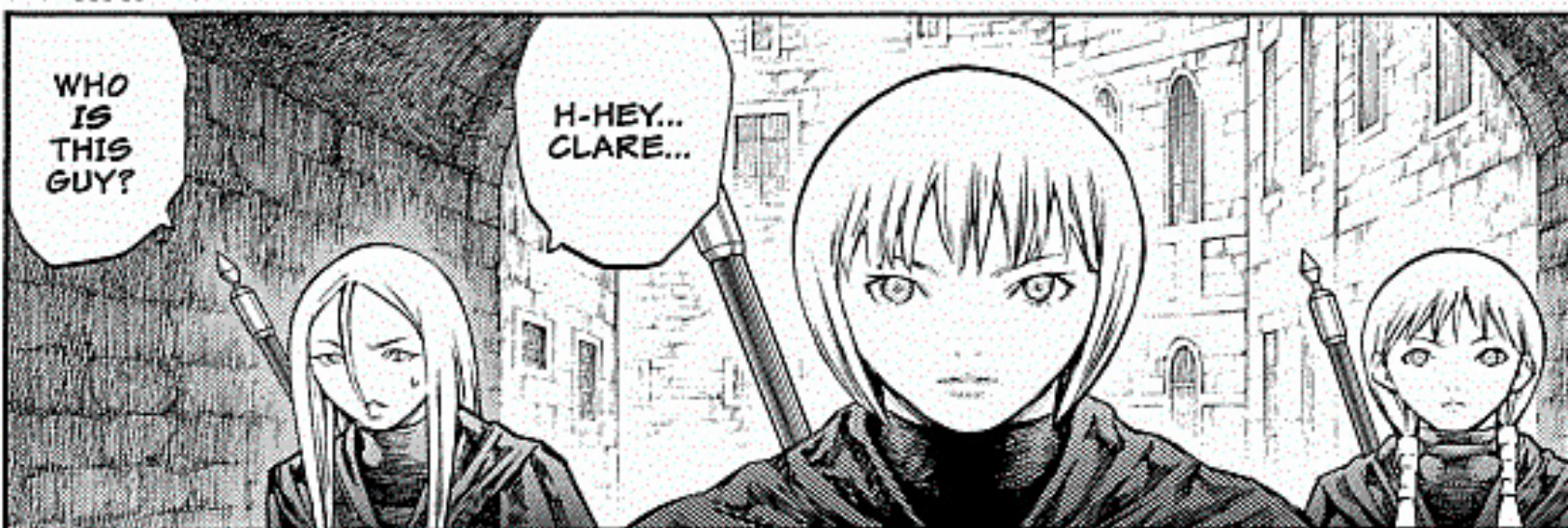


SCENE 84: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 2





SCENE 83: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 2



...TO
SEARCH
FOR A
WARRIOR
WHO'S
GONE
MISSING
IN THE
WEST.

AS WE
SPEAK,
THE ORGAN-
IZATION IS
MOBILIZING
ITS
FORCES...

WHAT?

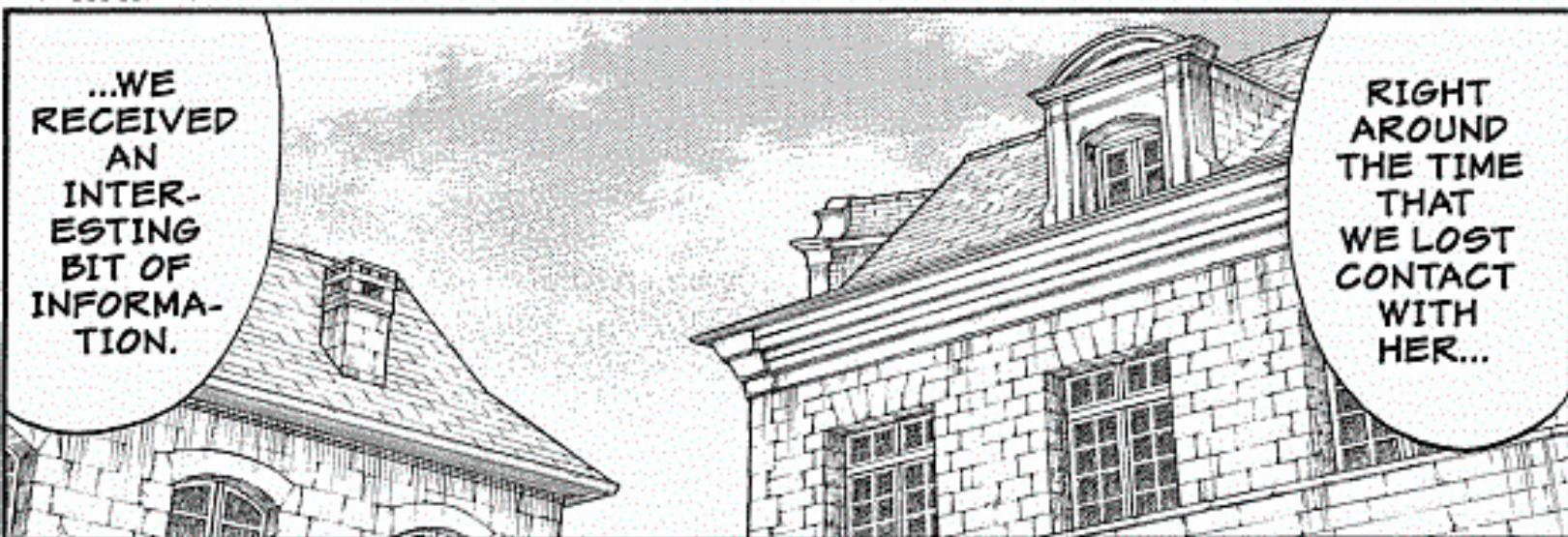
SHE'S
DISAP-
PEARED.

NUMBER
6,
RENÉE.

BUT SHE
PARTICU-
LARLY
EXCELS AT
LONG-RANGE
AURA
DETECTION.

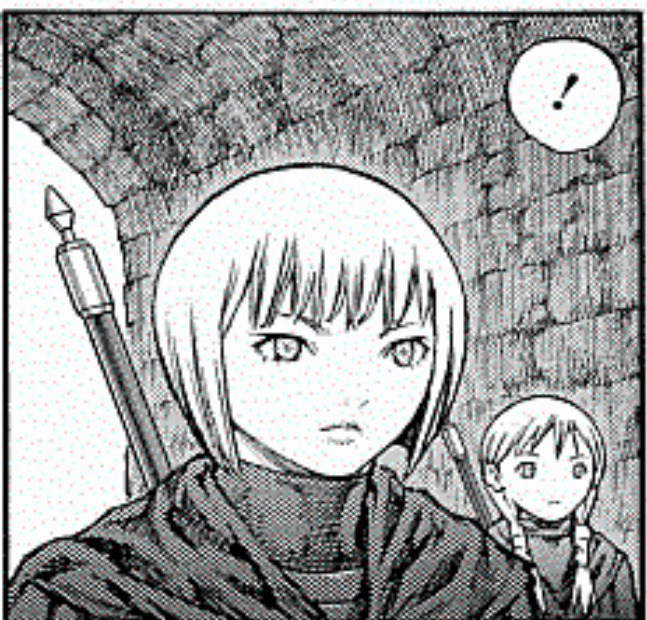
SHE IS THE
ORGANI-
ZATION'S
"EYES"
FOR THIS
GENERATION.

AS HER
NUMBER
INDICATES,
RENÉE
IS
STRONG.



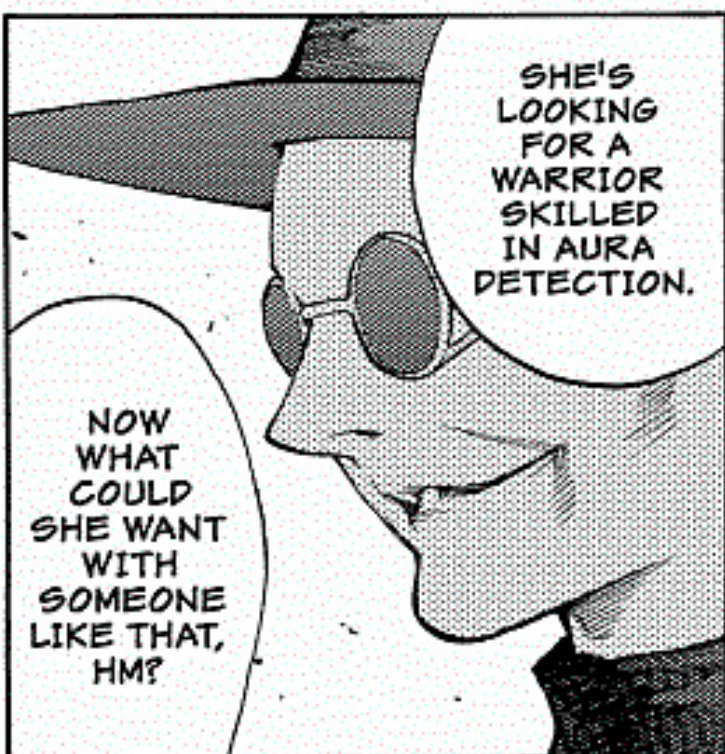
...WE
RECEIVED
AN
INTER-
ESTING
BIT OF
INFORMA-
TION.

RIGHT
AROUND
THE TIME
THAT
WE LOST
CONTACT
WITH
HER...



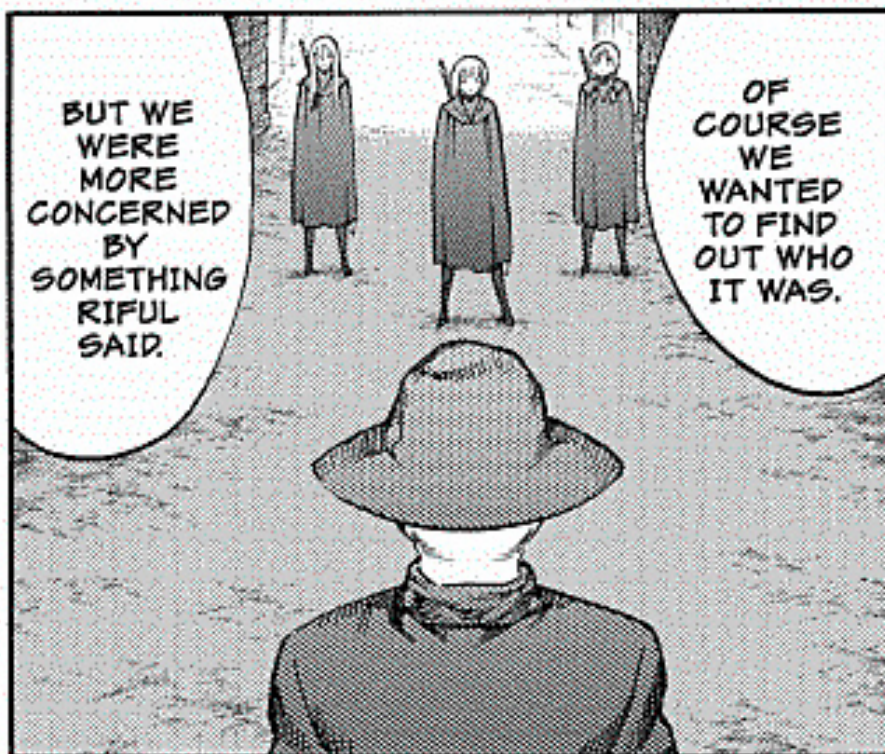
...FAILED
A MISSION.
IT SEEMS
THAT AFTER
BEING
ATTACKED
BY RIFUL OF
THE WEST,
THEY WERE
SAVED BY AN
UNKNOWN
PARTY.

A
GROUP
OF HIGH-
RANKING
WAR-
RIORS
...



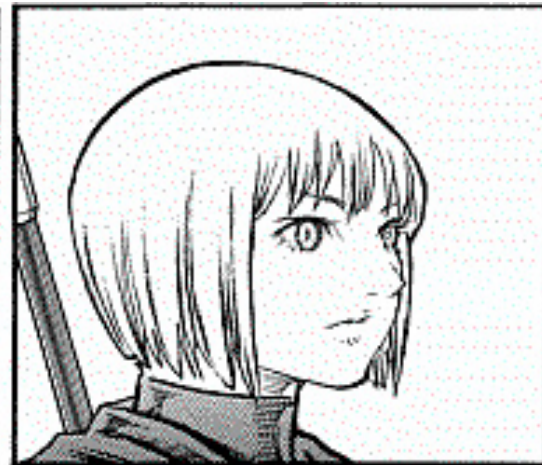
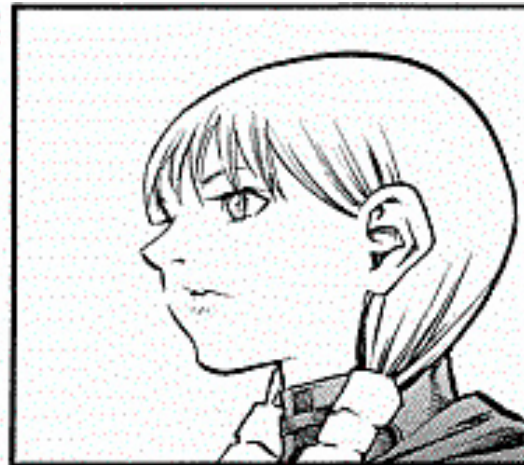
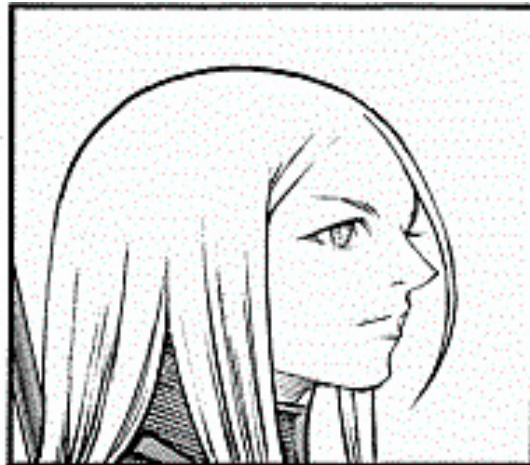
SHE'S
LOOKING
FOR A
WARRIOR
SKILLED
IN AURA
DETECTION.

NOW
WHAT
COULD
SHE WANT
WITH
SOMEONE
LIKE THAT,
HM?



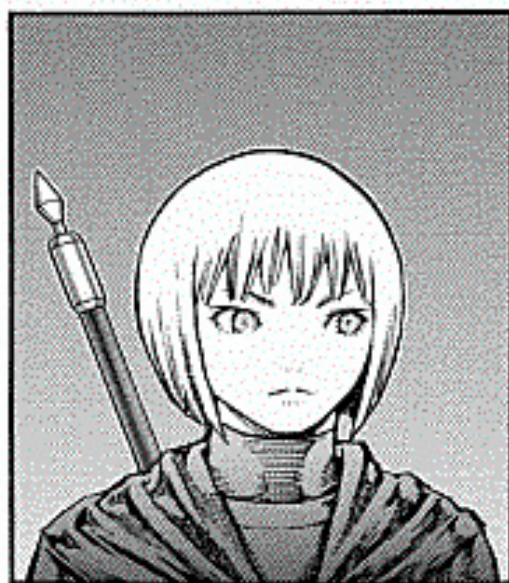
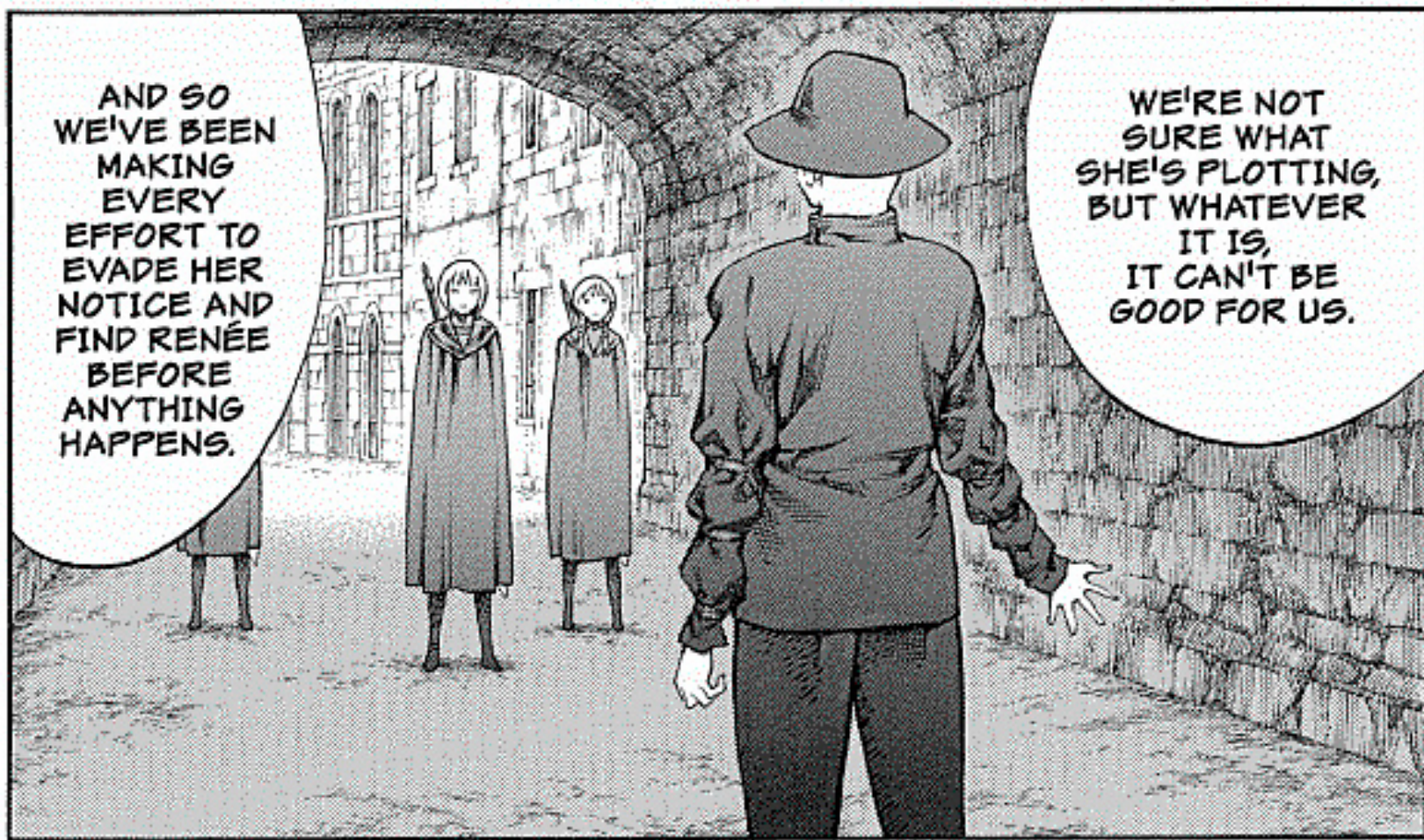
BUT WE
WERE
MORE
CONCERNED
BY
SOMETHING
RIFUL SAID.

OF
COURSE
WE
WANTED
TO FIND
OUT WHO
IT WAS.

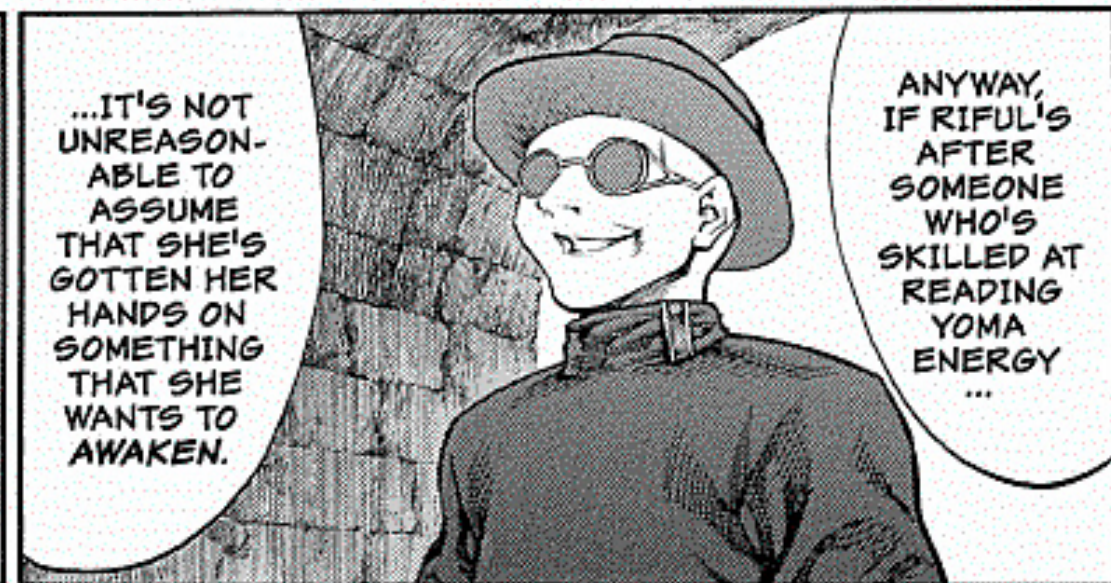


AND SO
WE'VE BEEN
MAKING
EVERY
EFFORT TO
EVADE HER
NOTICE AND
FIND RENÉE
BEFORE
ANYTHING
HAPPENS.

WE'RE NOT
SURE WHAT
SHE'S PLOTTING,
BUT WHATEVER
IT IS,
IT CAN'T BE
GOOD FOR US.



...IT'S NOT
UNREASON-
ABLE TO
ASSUME
THAT SHE'S
GOTTEN HER
HANDS ON
SOMETHING
THAT SHE
WANTS TO
AWAKEN.



ANYWAY,
IF RIFUL'S
AFTER
SOMEONE
WHO'S
SKILLED AT
READING
YOMA
ENERGY
...



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
IT IS?

SO THIS
THING THAT
RIFUL HAS
FOUND...



SEVEN
YEARS
AGO...

...A
WARRIOR
KILLED
LUCIELA,
THE
ABYSSAL
ONE OF THE
SOUTH.



OUT
WITH
IT.



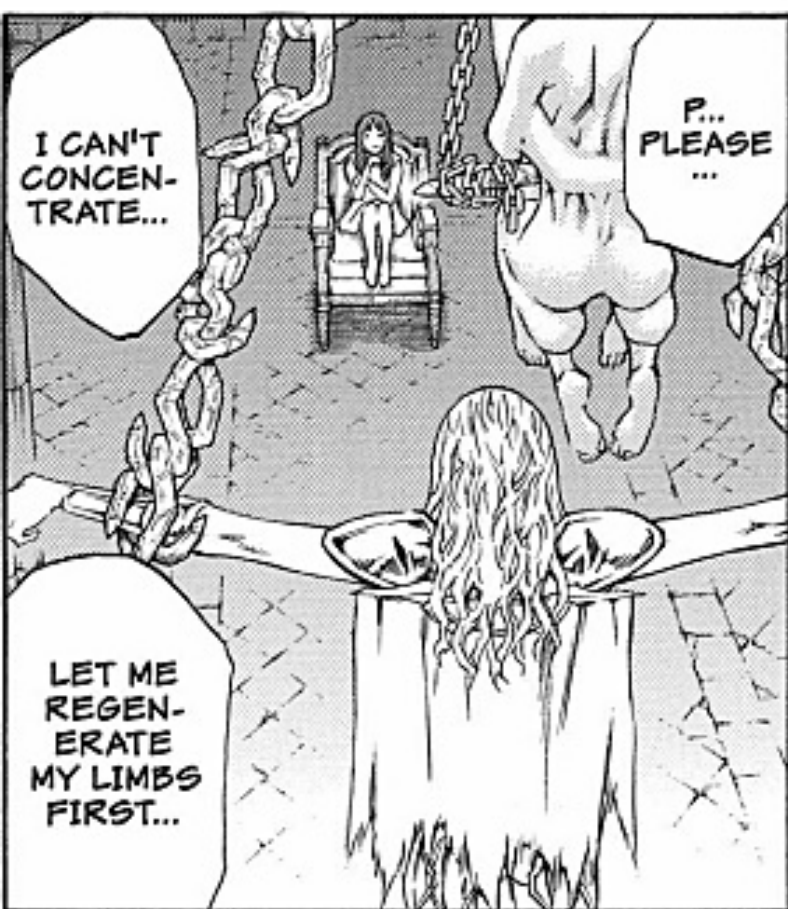
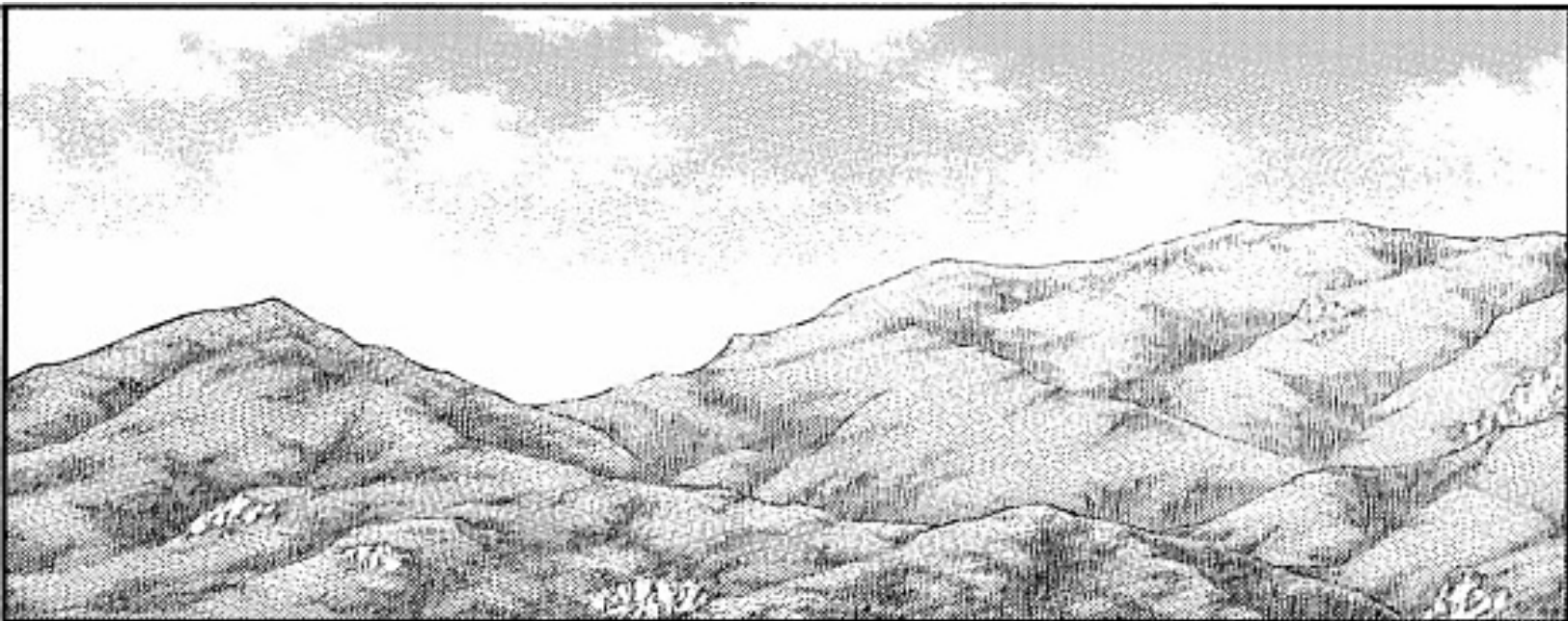
I DO
HAVE ONE
GUESS,
ALTHOUGH
THERE'S
NO WAY TO
CONFIRM
IT.

SHARP
AS
EVER,
I SEE.



I THINK
IT'S HER
REMAINS.

RAFAELA,
NUMBER
5 OF HER
GENER-
ATION.



YOU
DON'T
THINK I'D
ACTUALLY
CONSIDER
IT,
DO YOU?

GOODNESS,
WHAT A
SILLY
REQUEST.

MY SPECIALTY
IS LONG-RANGE
SEARCHING.
THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I'M GOOD AT
DEEP PROBING
FOR ENERGY
IN A SINGLE
OBJECT!

I'M
SERIOUS!

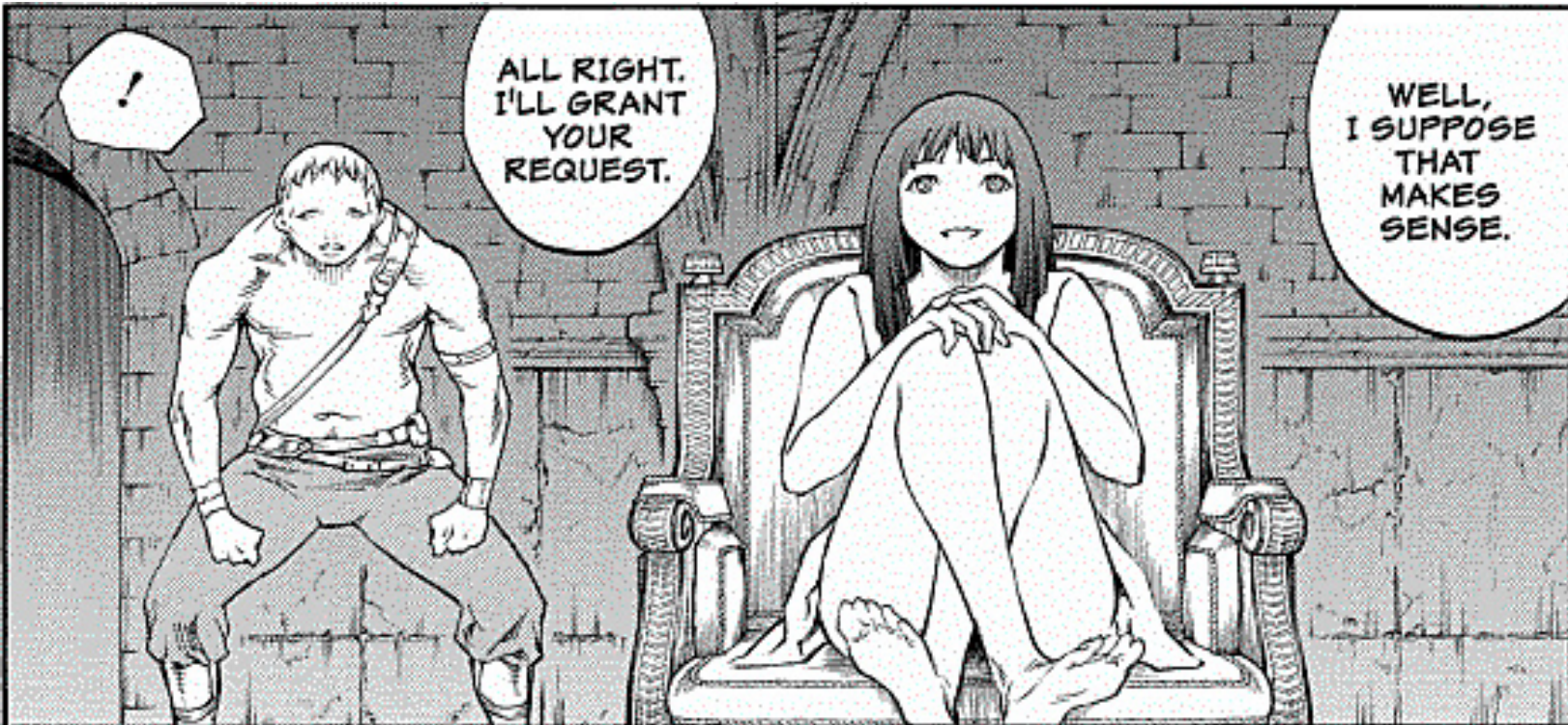
RIGHT
NOW,
IT'S ALL
I CAN
DO JUST
TO STAY
CON-
SCIOUS!

I'M NOT
LYING!
PLEASE
BELIEVE
ME!

AT THE
VERY
LEAST,
I NEED A
WHOLE
BODY TO
TRY IT...

I CAN'T
DO IT IF
I'M
DISTRACTED
BY HOW
MUCH TIME
I HAVE
LEFT TO REGEN-
ERATE
MY LIMBS!

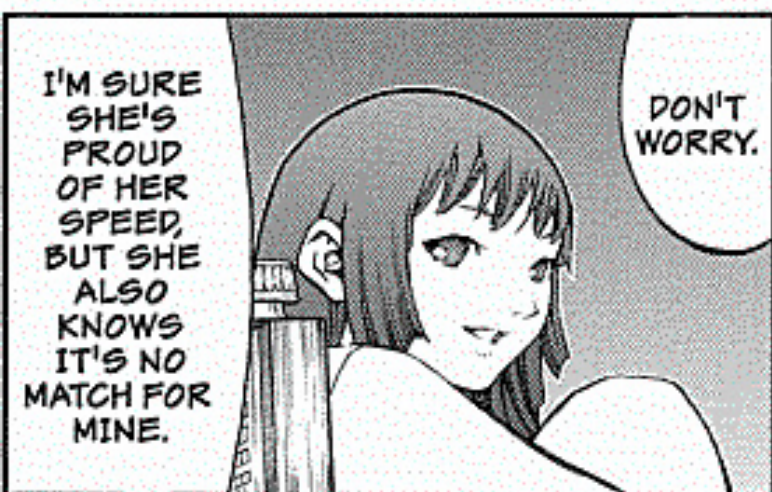
AND ON
TOP OF THAT,
I'LL HAVE TO
PENETRATE
PAST DEEP
LAYERS OF
CONSCIOUS-
NESS
THAT ARE
COMPLETELY
SEALED!



!

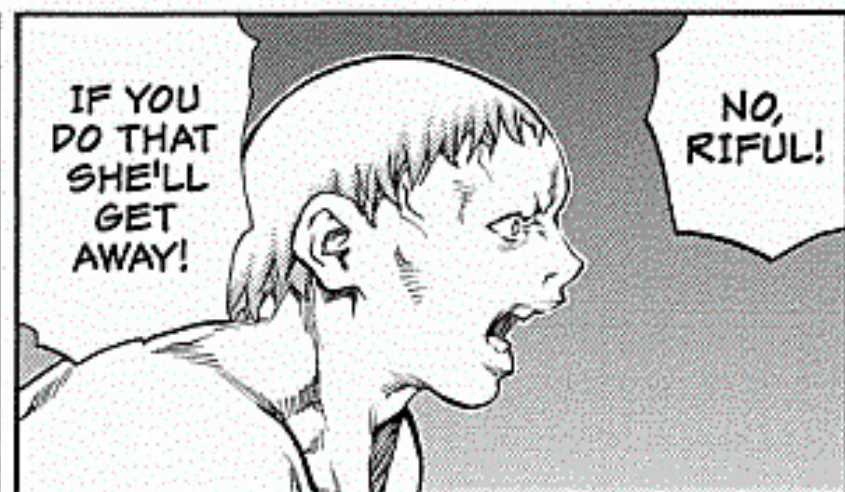
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL GRANT
YOUR
REQUEST.

WELL,
I SUPPOSE
THAT
MAKES
SENSE.



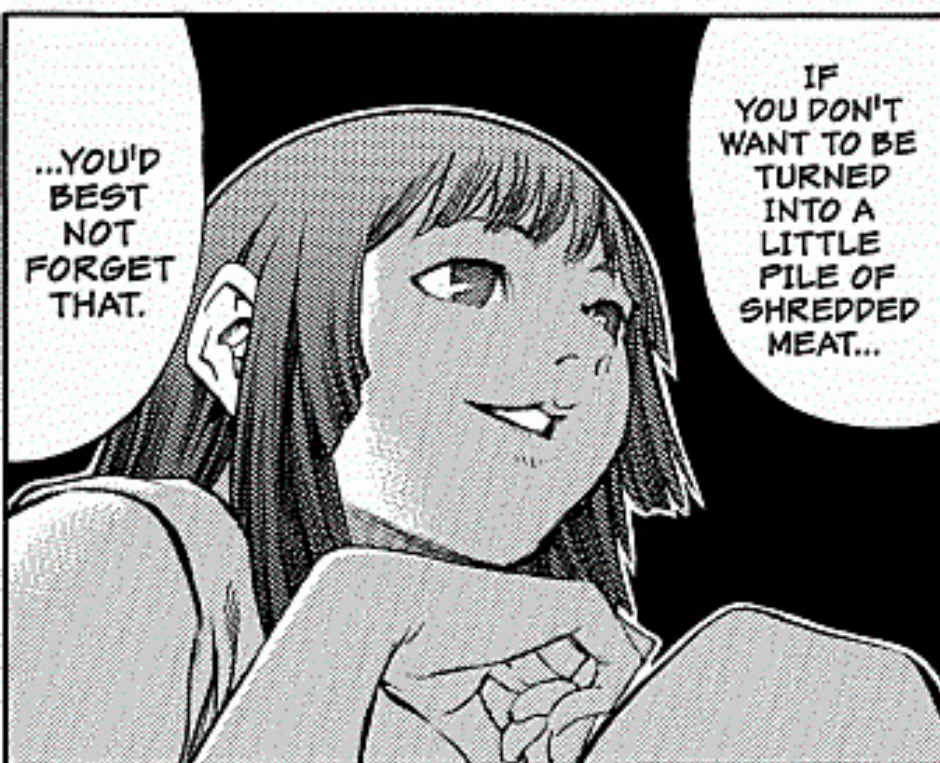
I'M SURE
SHE'S
PROUD
OF HER
SPEED,
BUT SHE
ALSO
KNOWS
IT'S NO
MATCH FOR
MINE.

DON'T
WORRY.



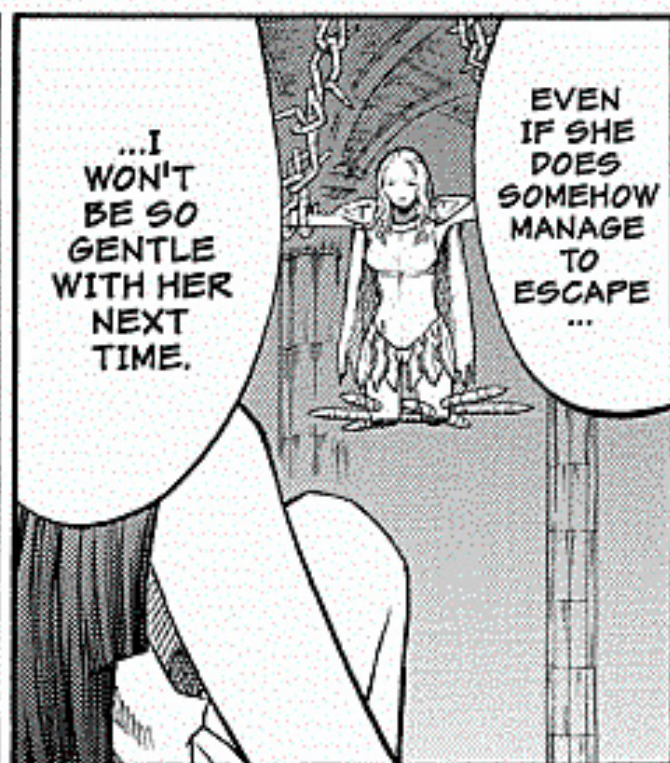
IF YOU
DO THAT
SHE'LL
GET
AWAY!

NO,
RIFUL!



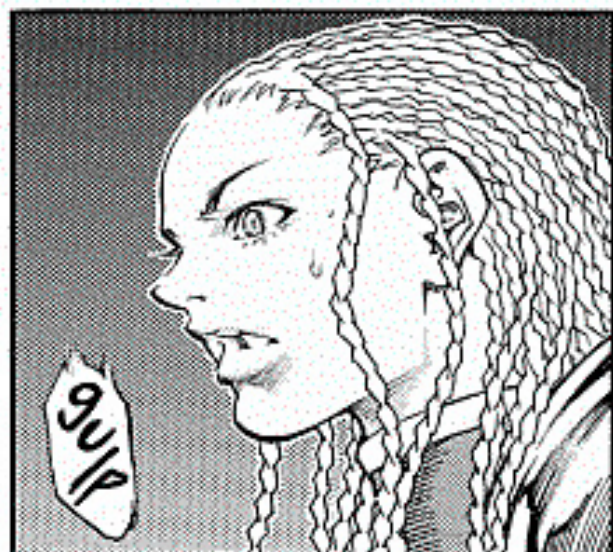
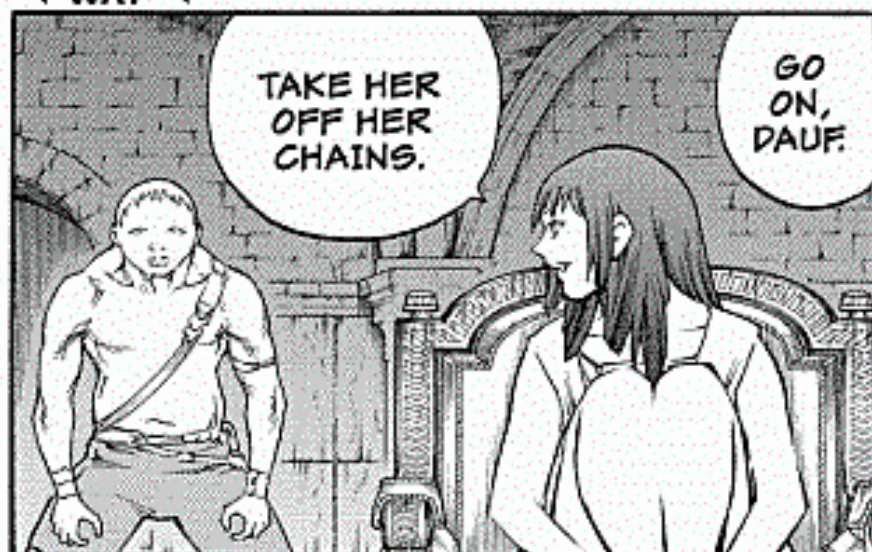
...YOU'D
BEST
NOT
FORGET
THAT.

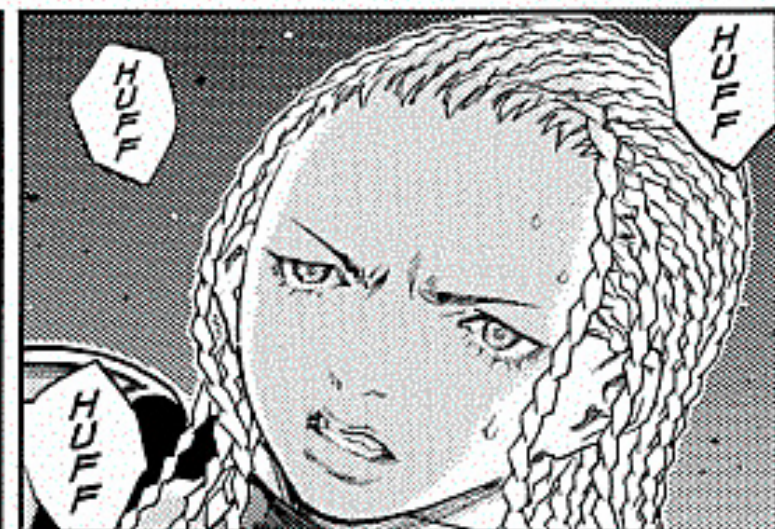
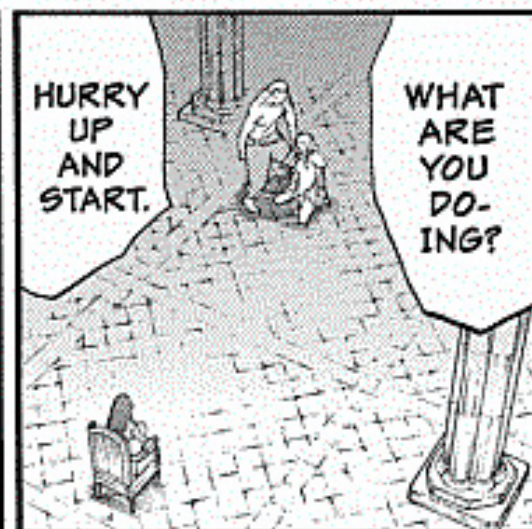
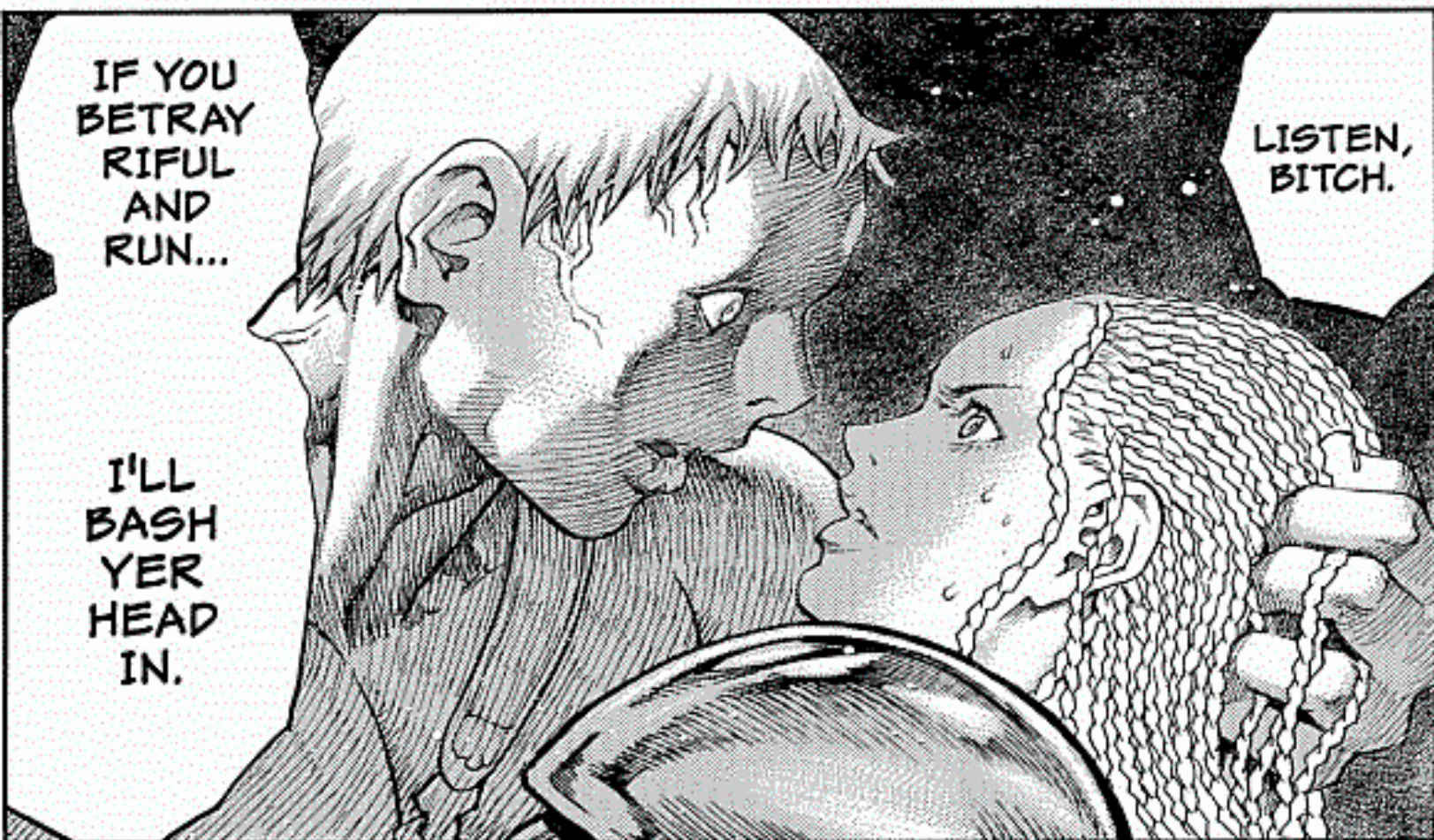
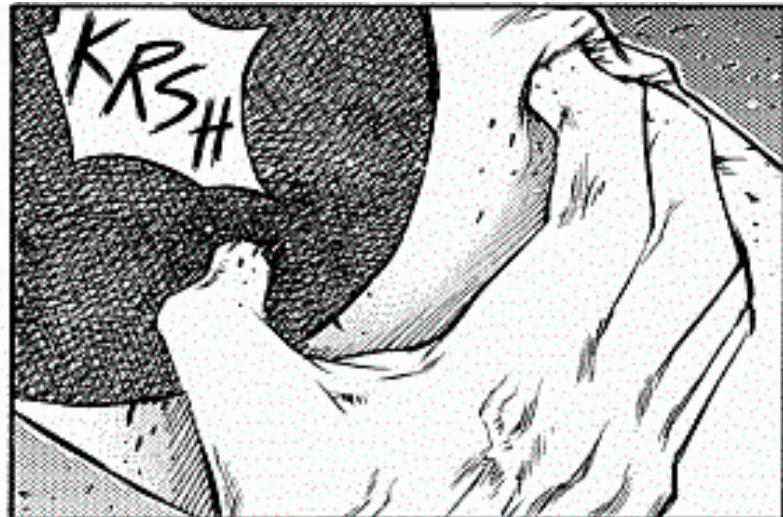
IF
YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE
TURNED
INTO A
LITTLE
PILE OF
SHREDDED
MEAT...

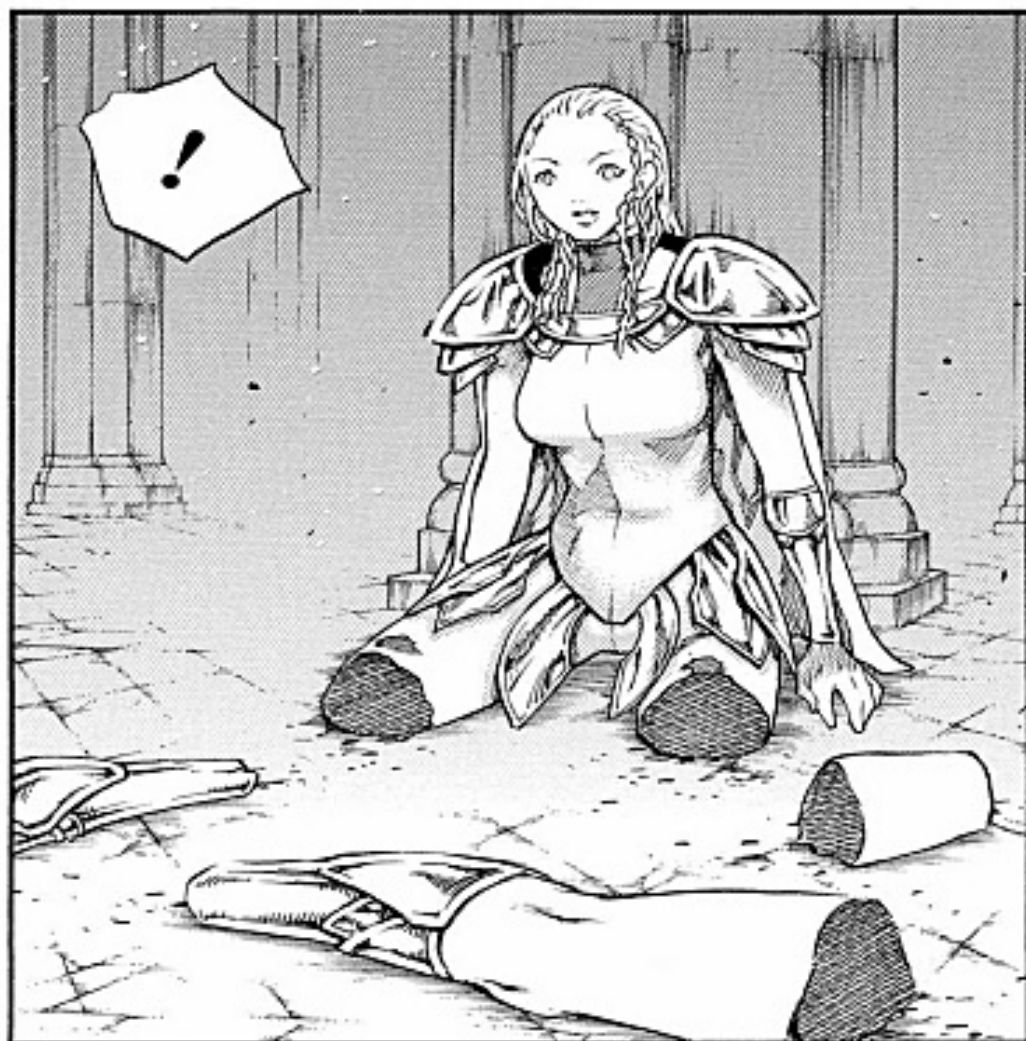


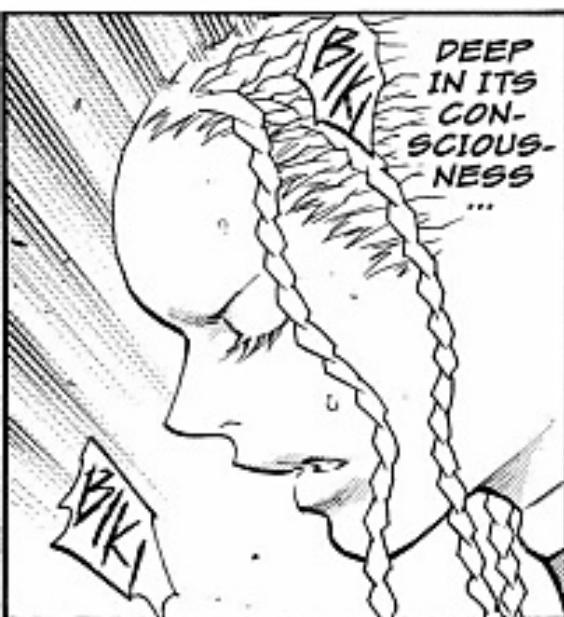
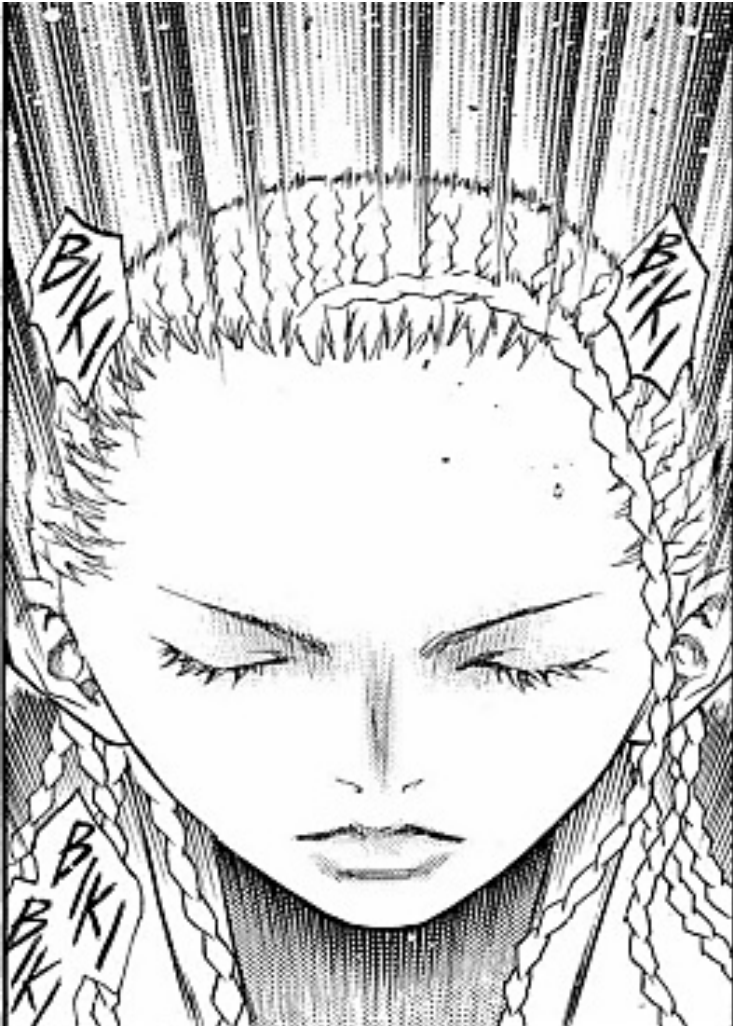
...I
WON'T
BE SO
GENTLE
WITH HER
NEXT
TIME.

EVEN
IF SHE
DOES
SOMEHOW
MANAGE
TO
ESCAPE
...







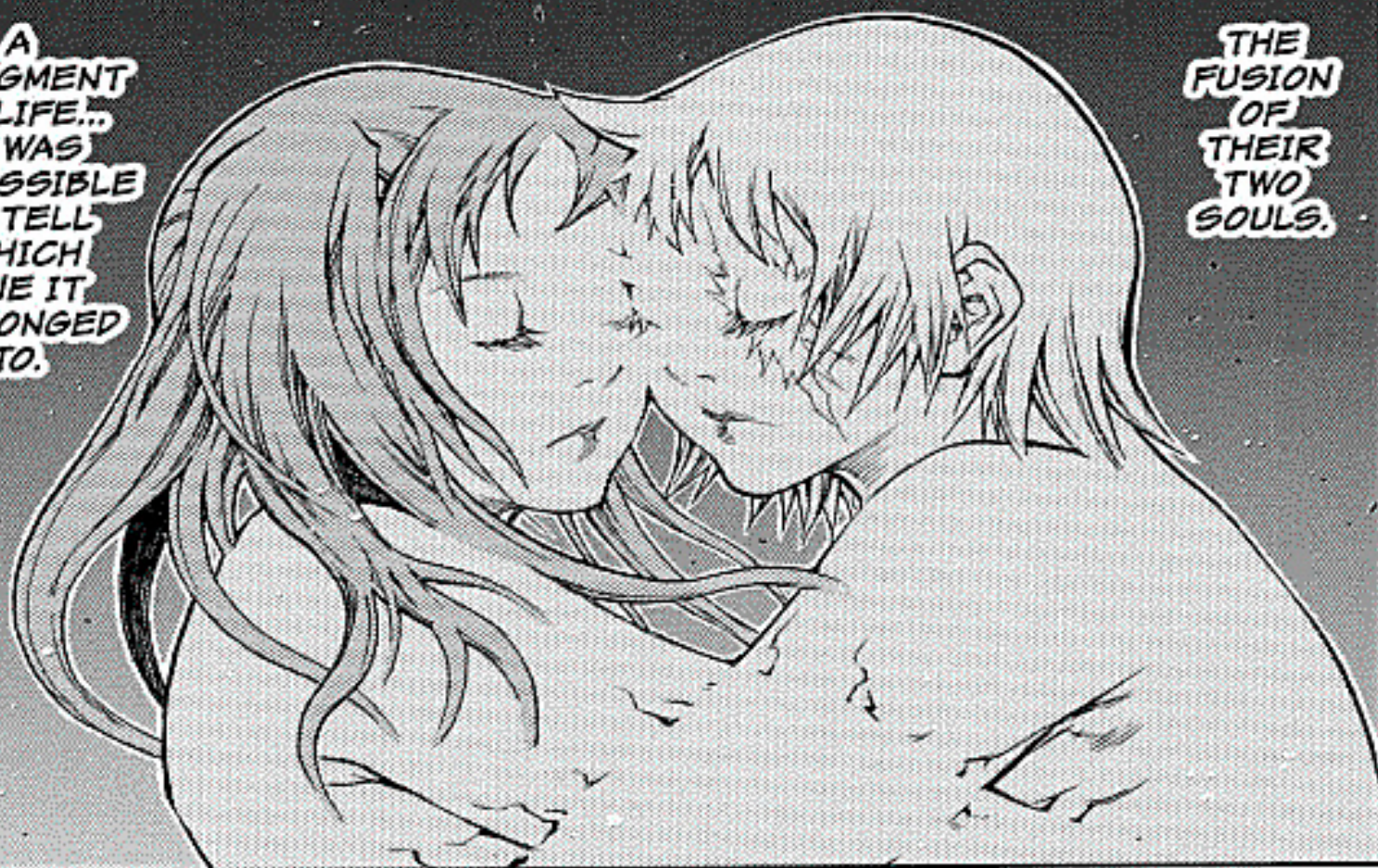


IN THE
MIDST
OF AN
ENDLESS
DARKNESS,
IT WAS
THERE.

DOWN
IN THE
LOWEST
LEVELS...

A
FRAGMENT
OF LIFE...
IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE
TO TELL
WHICH
ONE IT
BELONGED
TO.

THE
FUSION
OF
THEIR
TWO
SOULS.



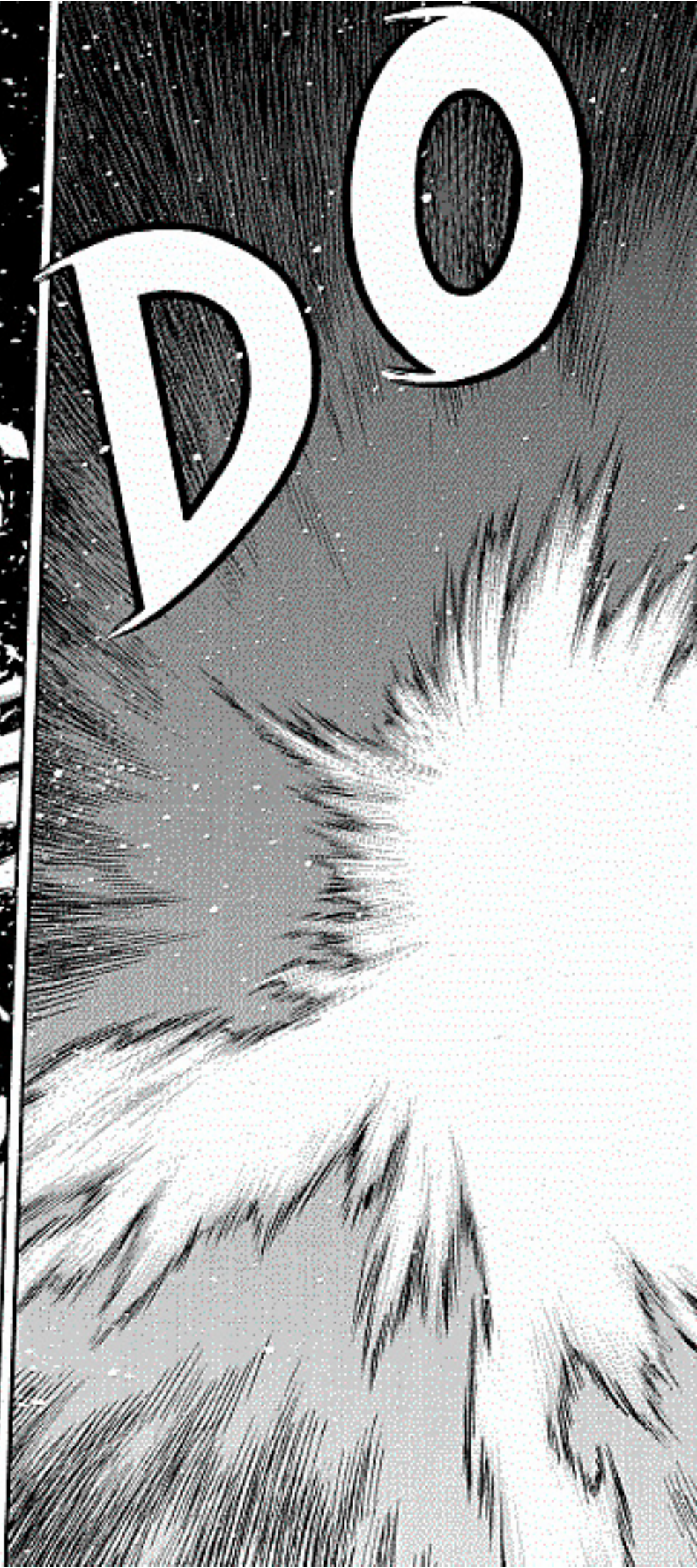
BUT...

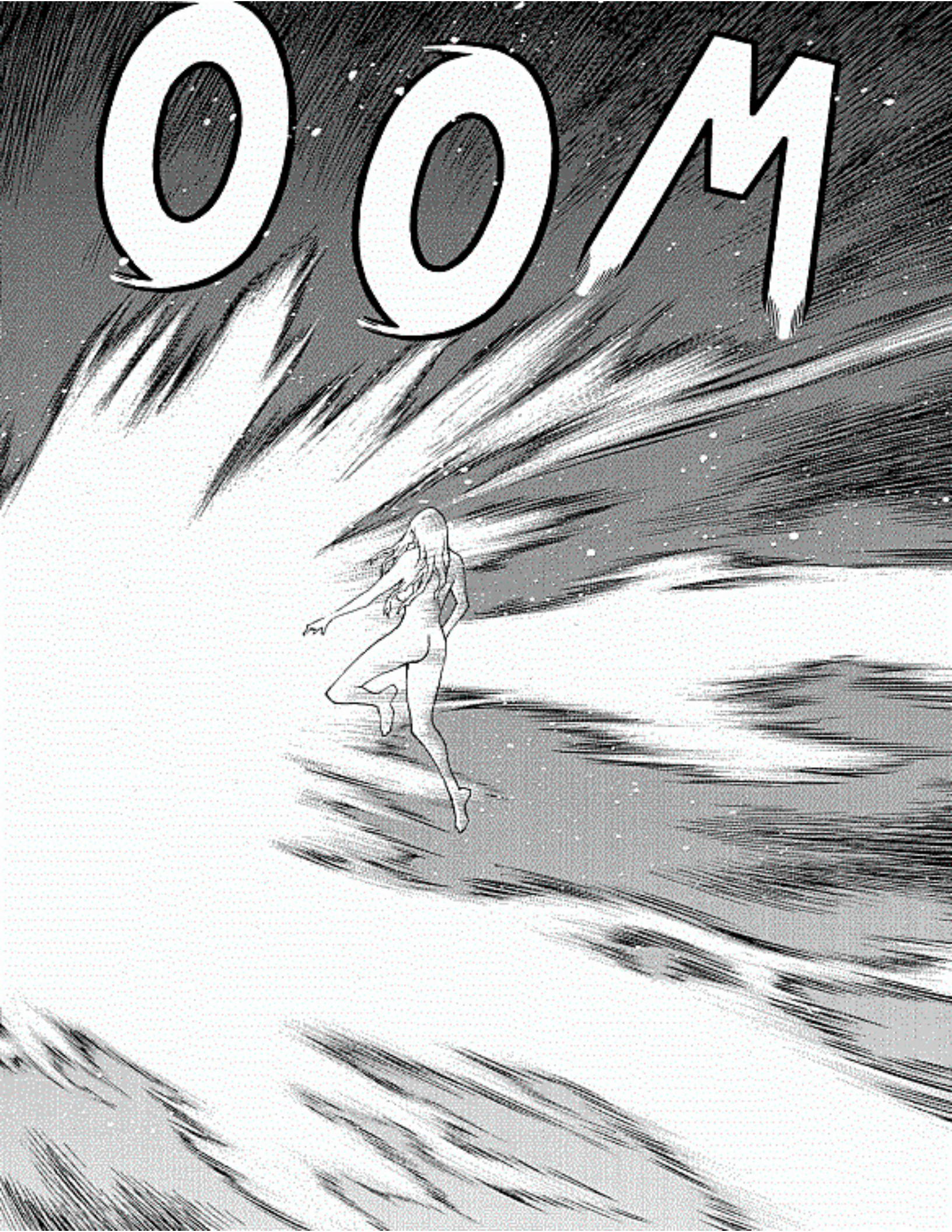


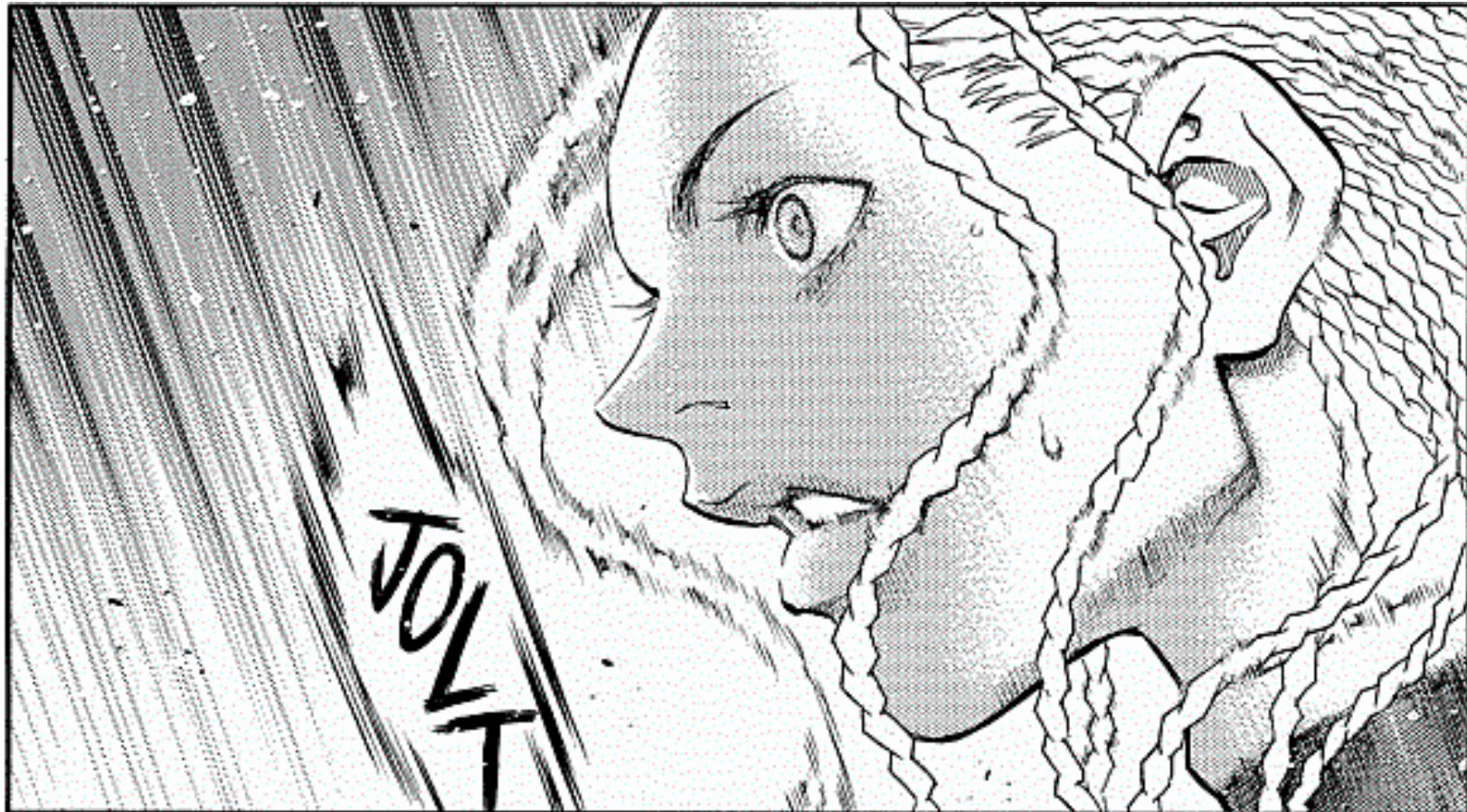
SO WEAK
I DIDN'T
DARE
TO EVEN
TOUCH IT.



A FAINT GLOW,
LIKE A MIST
FLOATING
IN THE
DARKNESS
THAT WOULD
DISAPPEAR
WITH A SINGLE
BREATH.







...WAS AN
UNFATHOM-
ABLE YOMA
ENERGY,
POWERFUL
ENOUGH
TO TEAR
APART MY
SOUL IN AN
INSTANT.

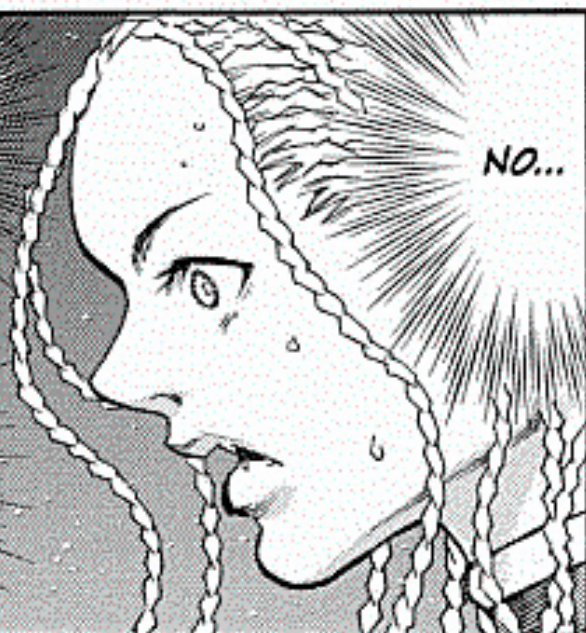


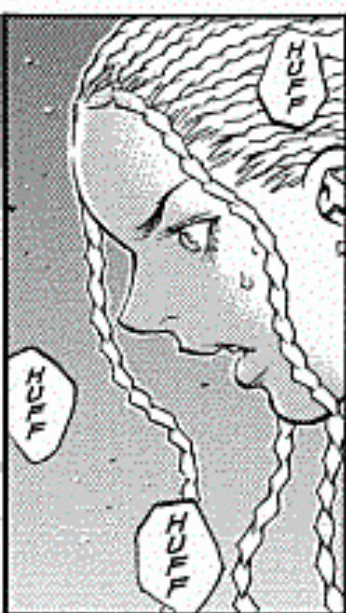
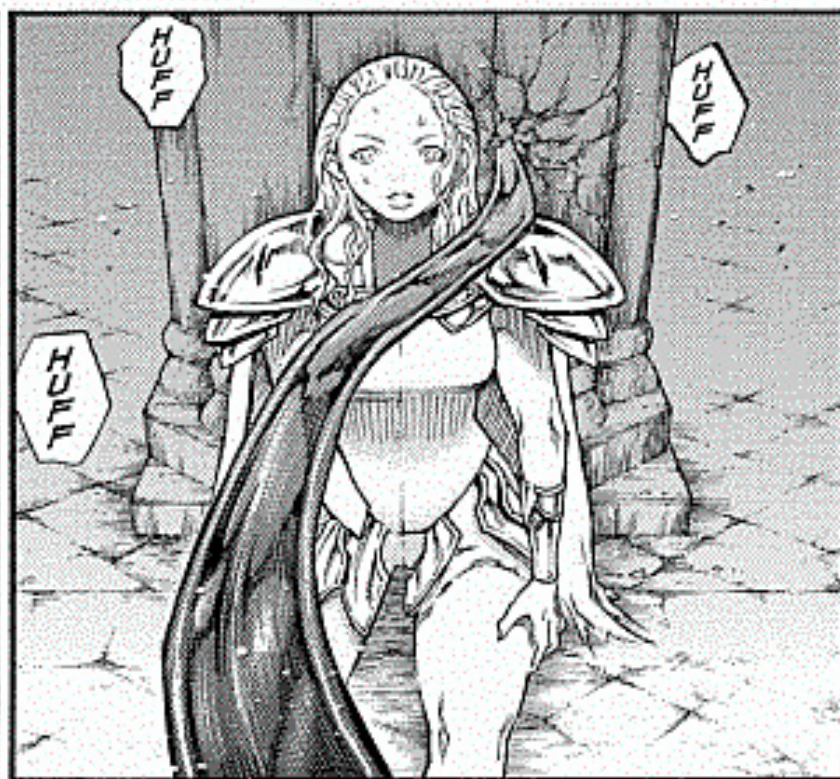
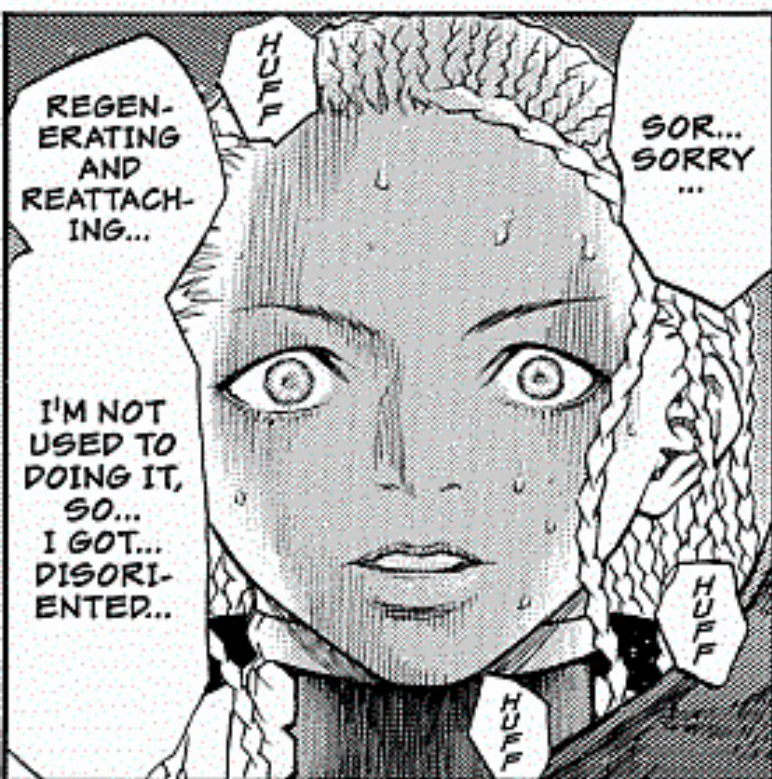
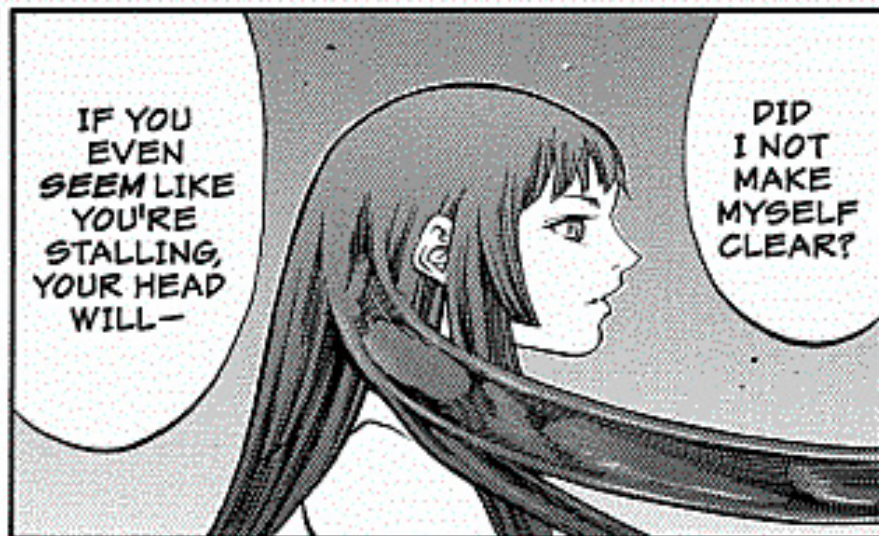
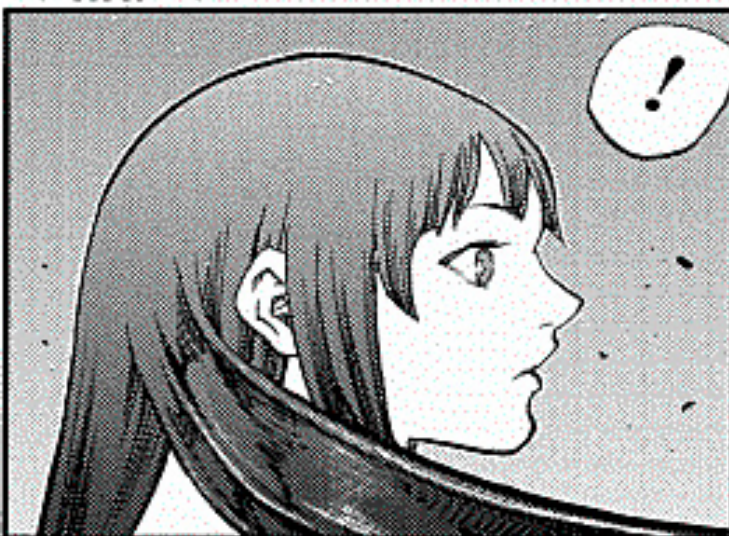
HIDDEN
DEEP
IN THE
LOWEST
LEVELS
I COULD
DIVE
TO...



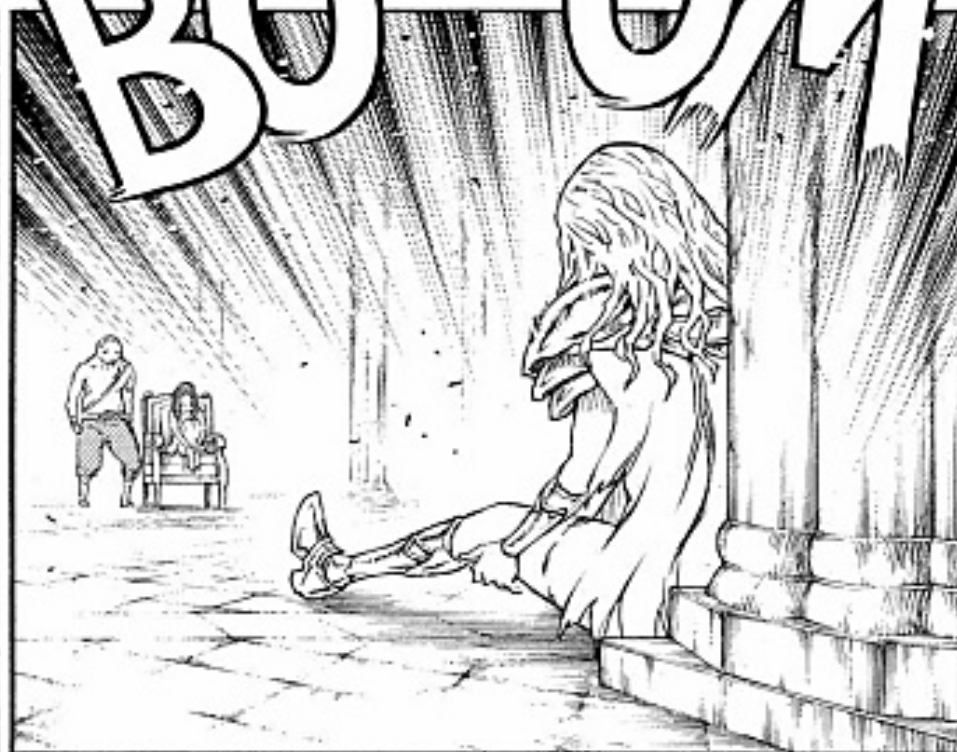
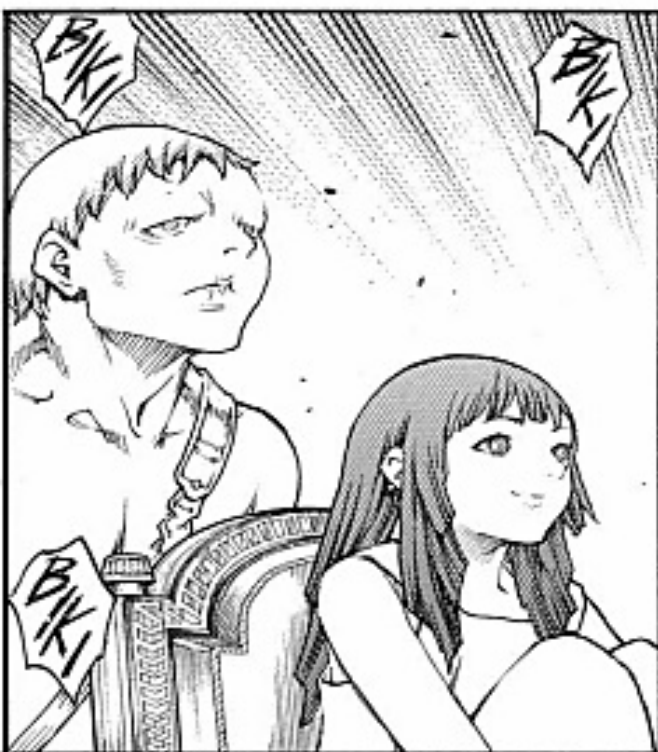
THIS
IS
WRONG
...

IT
MUST
NEVER
AWAKEN
...

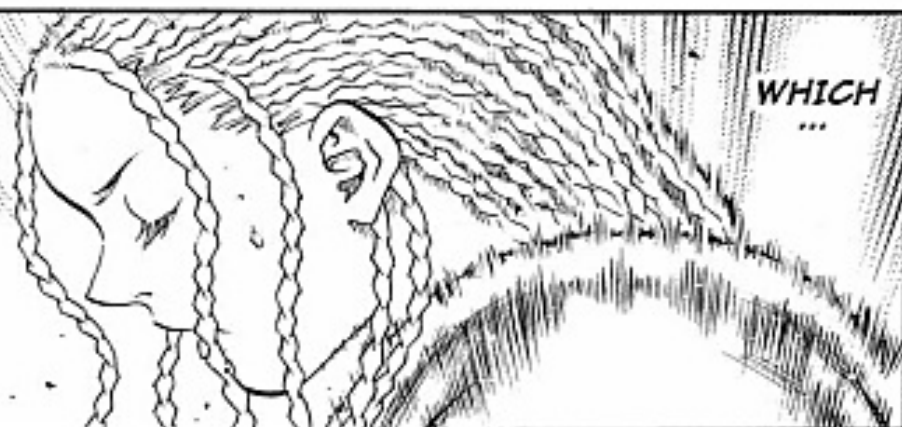




BO OM



...ONE IS STRONGER? RIFUL, THE ABYSSAL ONE OF THE WEST, OR THAT THING? I'VE NO WAY OF KNOWING.



WHICH ...

SO WILL THAT LUMP OF A MAN NEXT TO RIFUL.

THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SURVIVE IS THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS... THAT'S HOW MASSIVE IT WILL BE.

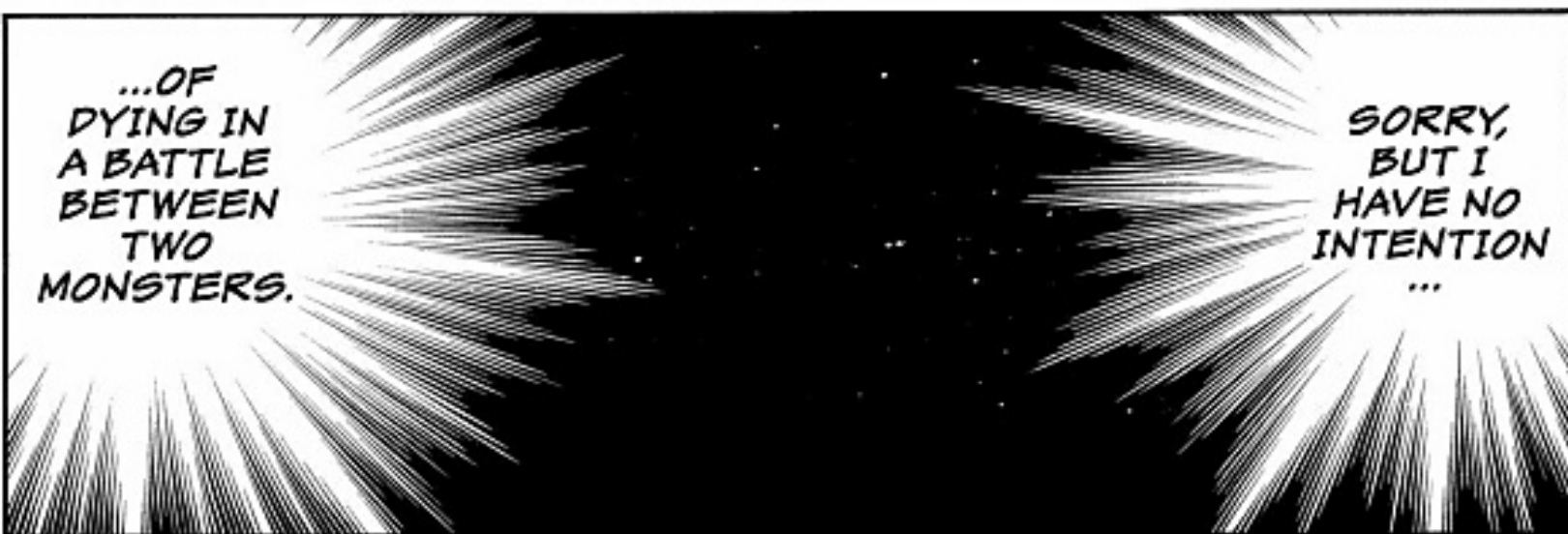


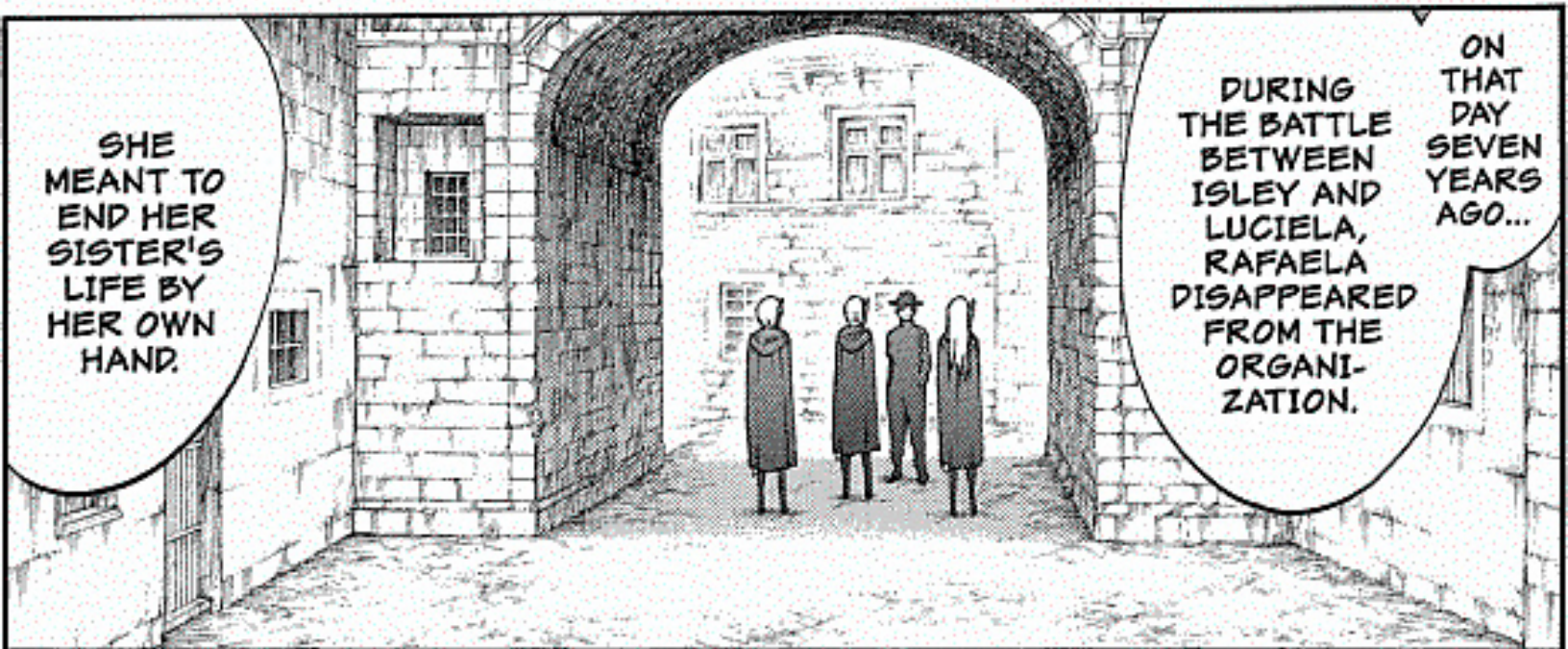
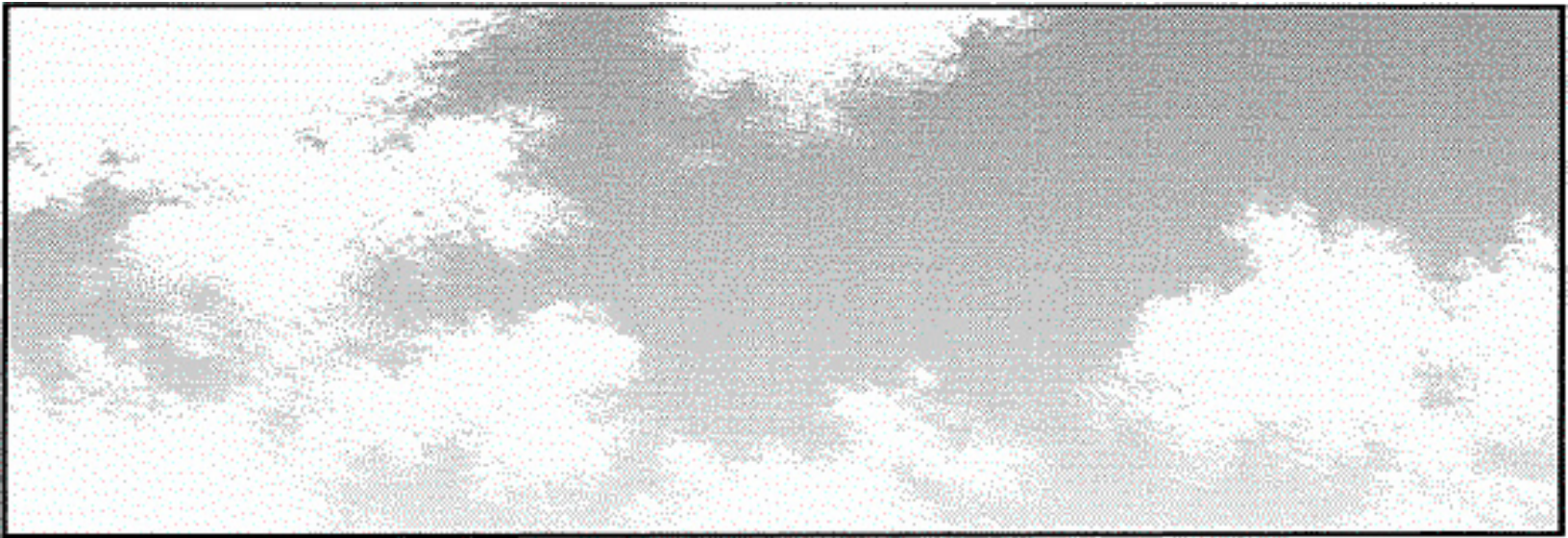
AND THE MOMENT IT AWAKENS, I WILL BE OBLITERATED.



BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING FOR CERTAIN.

IF IT IS RELEASED, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, SOMETHING TERRIBLE BEYOND ANYTHING WE CAN IMAGINE WILL BE BORN.

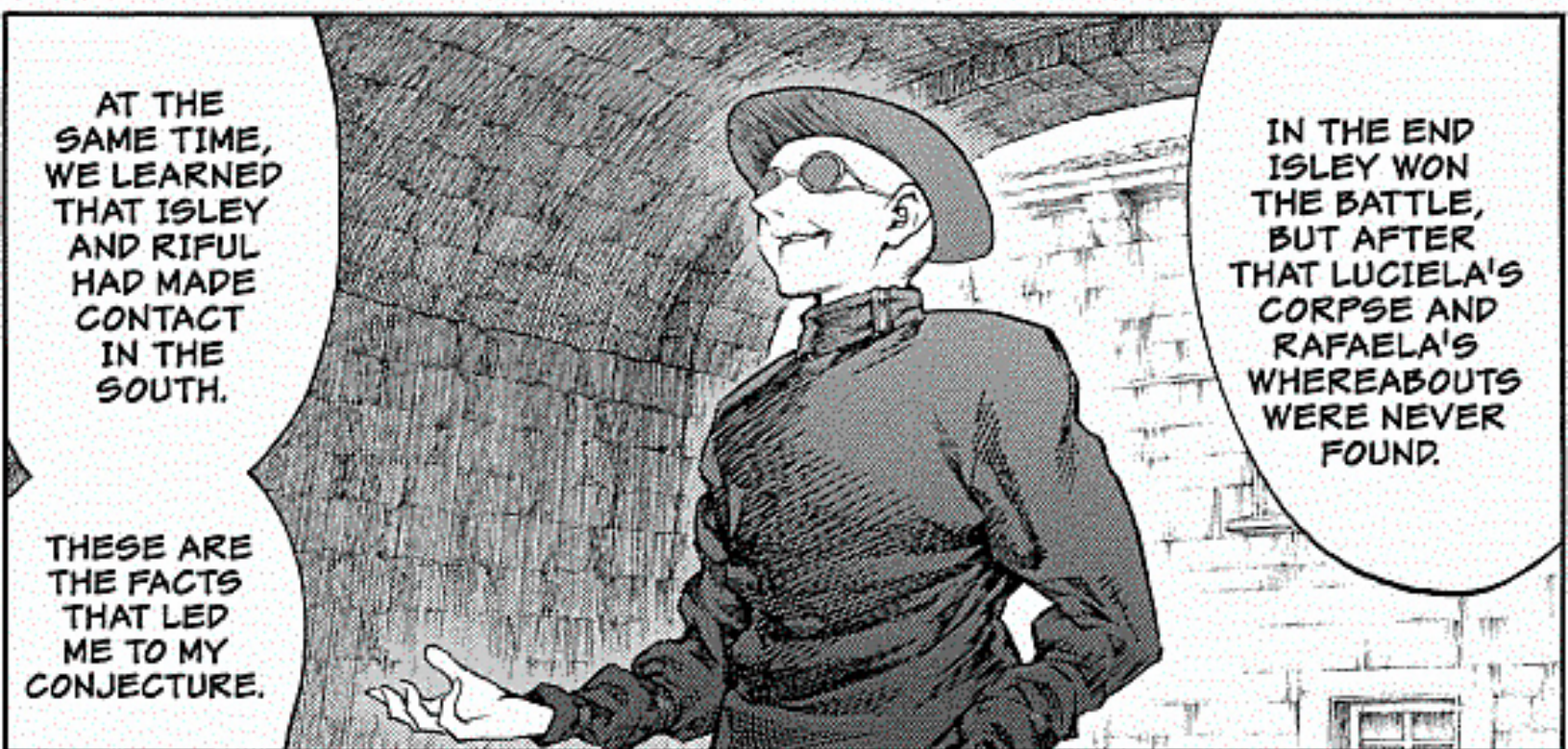




SHE
MEANT TO
END HER
SISTER'S
LIFE BY
HER OWN
HAND.

ON
THAT
DAY
SEVEN
YEARS
AGO...

DURING
THE BATTLE
BETWEEN
ISLEY AND
LUCIELA,
RAFAELA
DISAPPEARED
FROM THE
ORGANI-
ZATION.

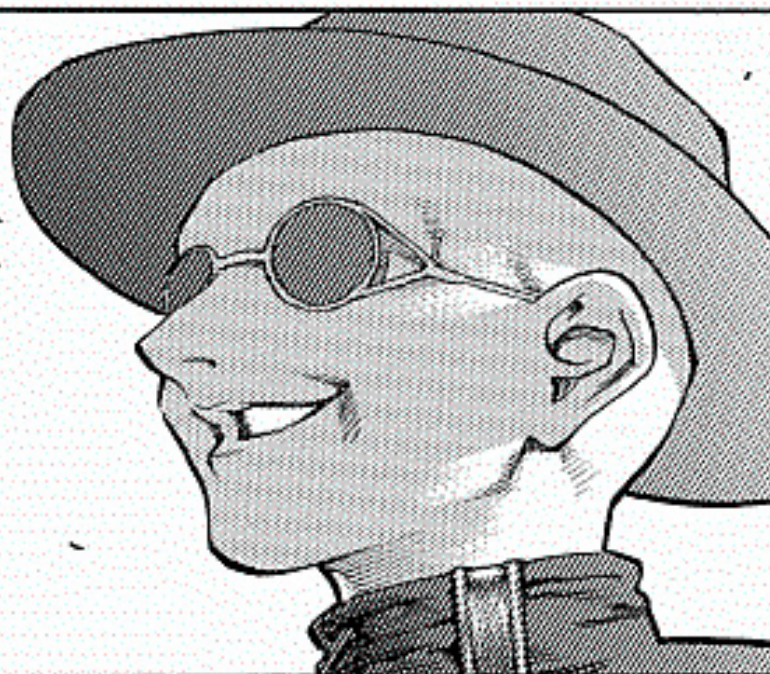


AT THE
SAME TIME,
WE LEARNED
THAT ISLEY
AND RIFUL
HAD MADE
CONTACT
IN THE
SOUTH.

IN THE END
ISLEY WON
THE BATTLE,
BUT AFTER
THAT LUCIELA'S
CORPSE AND
RAFAELA'S
WHEREABOUTS
WERE NEVER
FOUND.

THESE ARE
THE FACTS
THAT LED
ME TO MY
CONJECTURE.

IF
RAFAELA
COULD BE
AWAKENED
AND USED,
THE BALANCE
OF POWER IN
THIS LAND
WOULD SHIFT
DRAMATI-
CALLY.

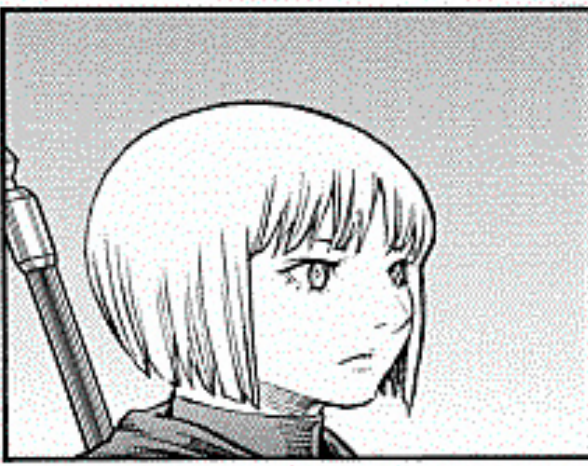
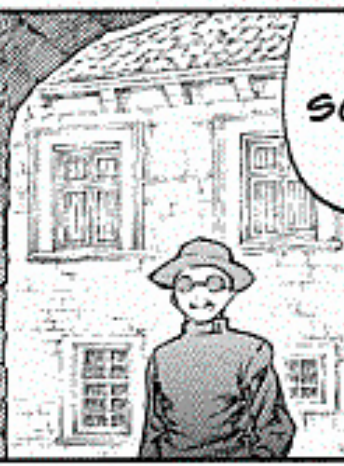


RAFAELA
AND
LUCIELA
POSSESSED
JUST ABOUT
AN EQUAL
AMOUNT OF
STRENGTH.

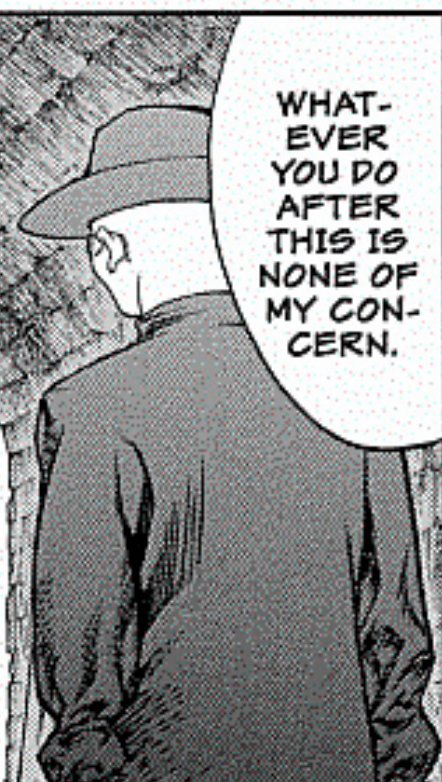
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
FROM
US?



SO...



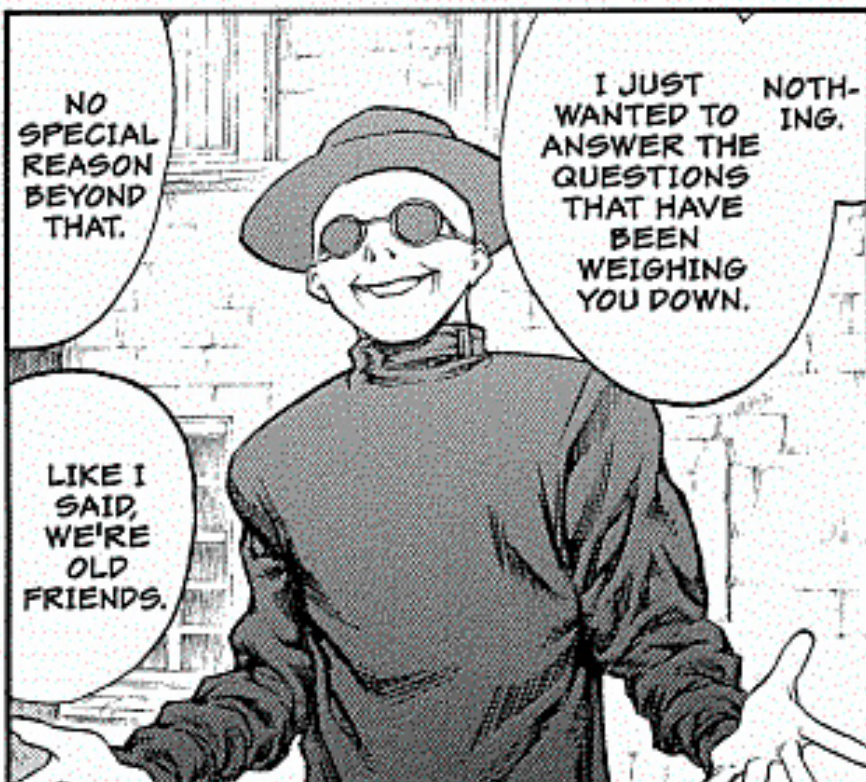
I'M
JUST
GIVING
YOU THE
INFOR-
MATION
YOU'VE
BEEN
SEEK-
ING.



WHAT-
EVER
YOU DO
AFTER
THIS IS
NONE OF
MY CON-
CERN.

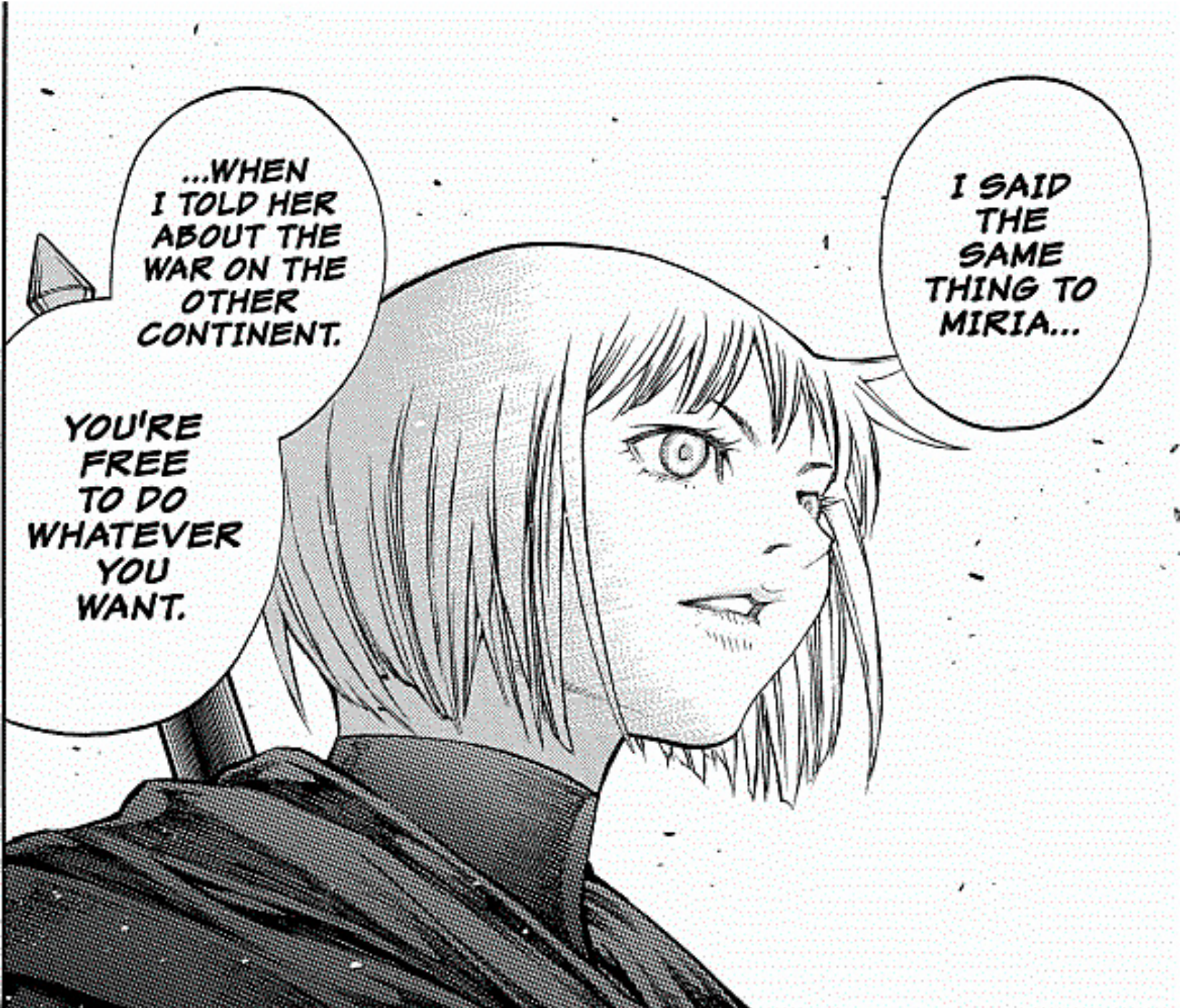
NO
SPECIAL
REASON
BEYOND
THAT.

LIKE I
SAID,
WE'RE
OLD
FRIENDS.



I JUST
WANTED TO
ANSWER THE
QUESTIONS
THAT HAVE
BEEN
WEIGHING
YOU DOWN.

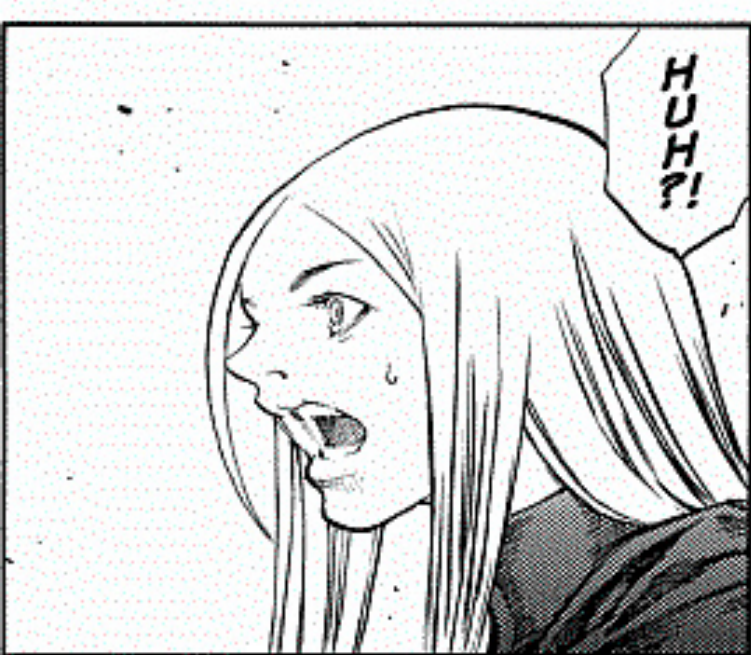
NOTH-
ING.



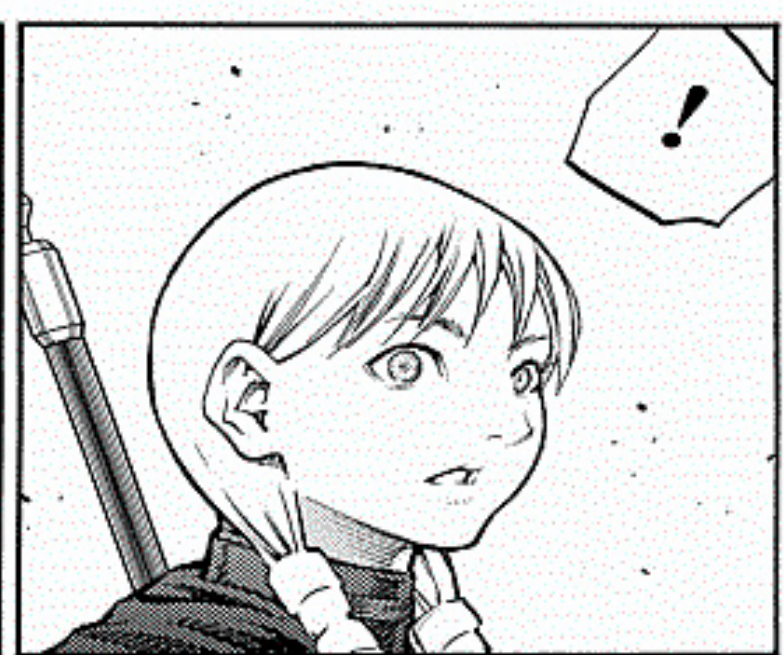
...WHEN
I TOLD HER
ABOUT THE
WAR ON THE
OTHER
CONTINENT.

I SAID
THE
SAME
THING TO
MIRIA...

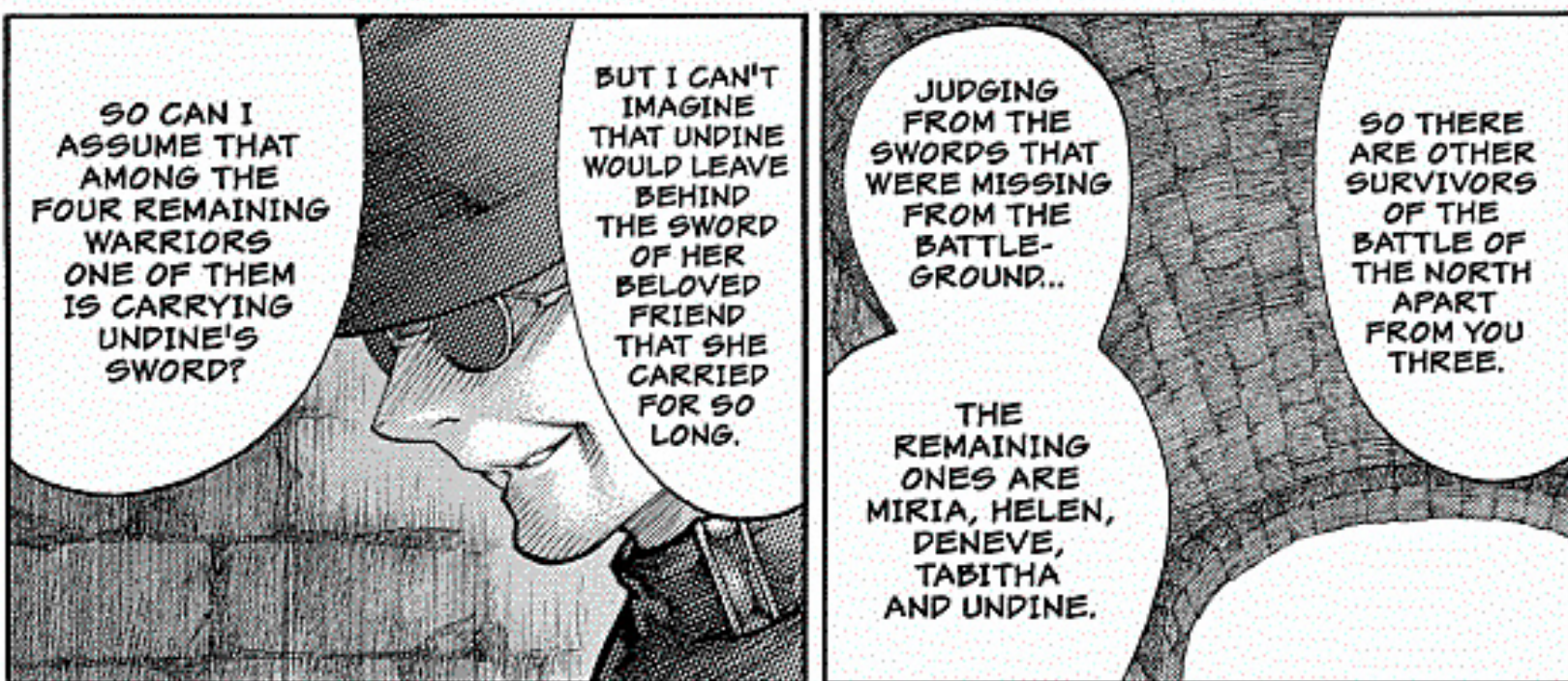
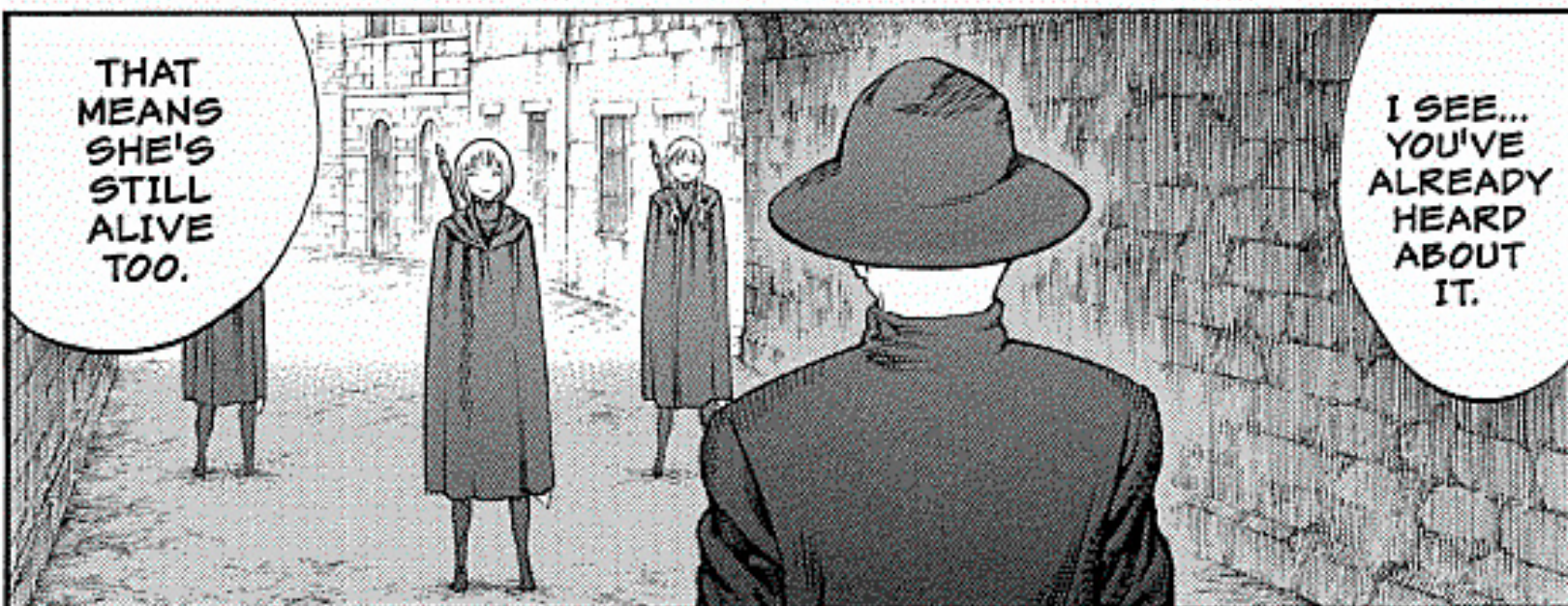
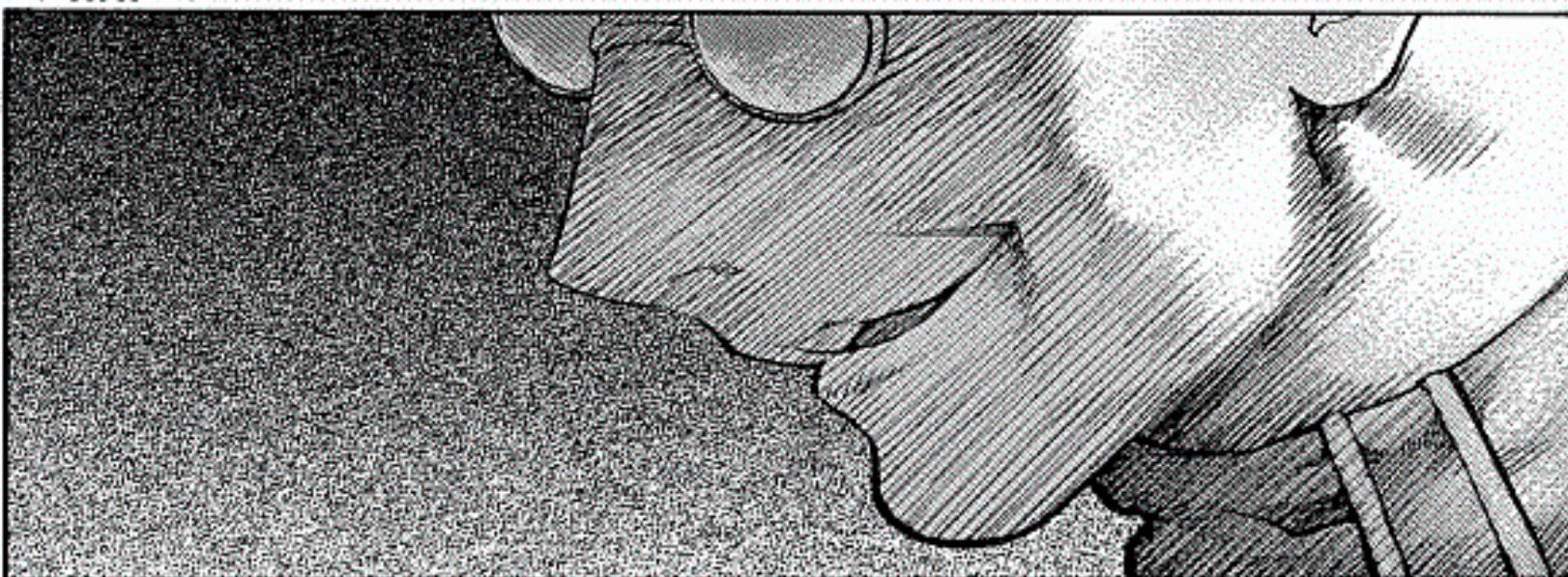
YOU'RE
FREE
TO DO
WHATEVER
YOU
WANT.

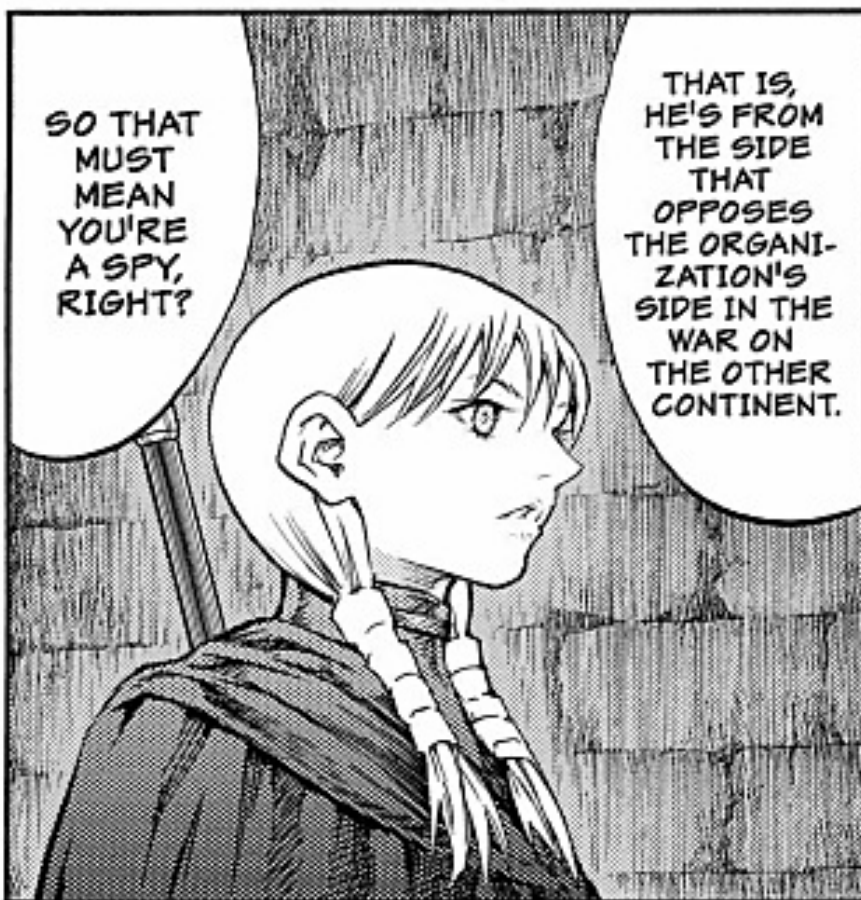
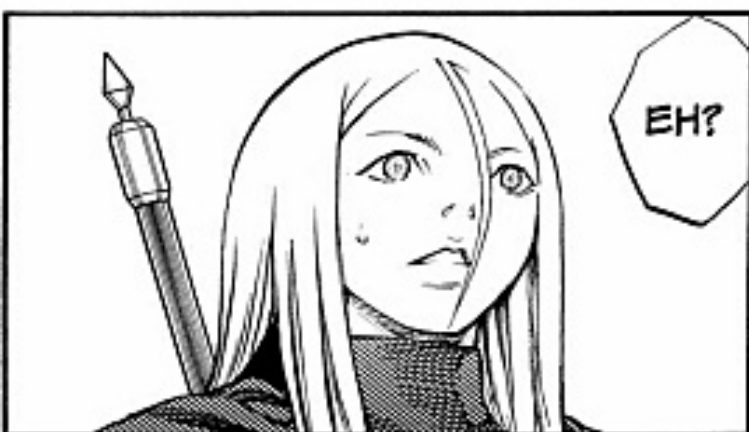
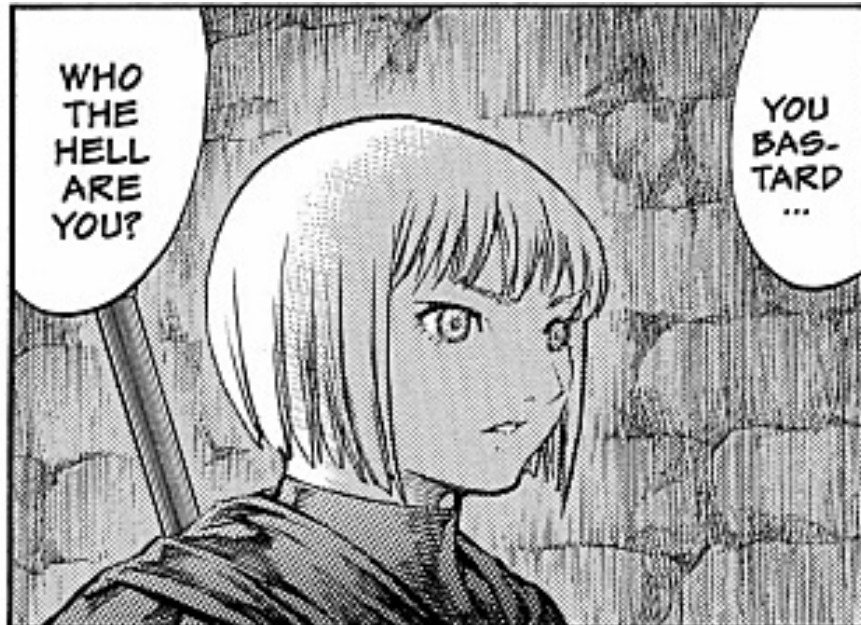


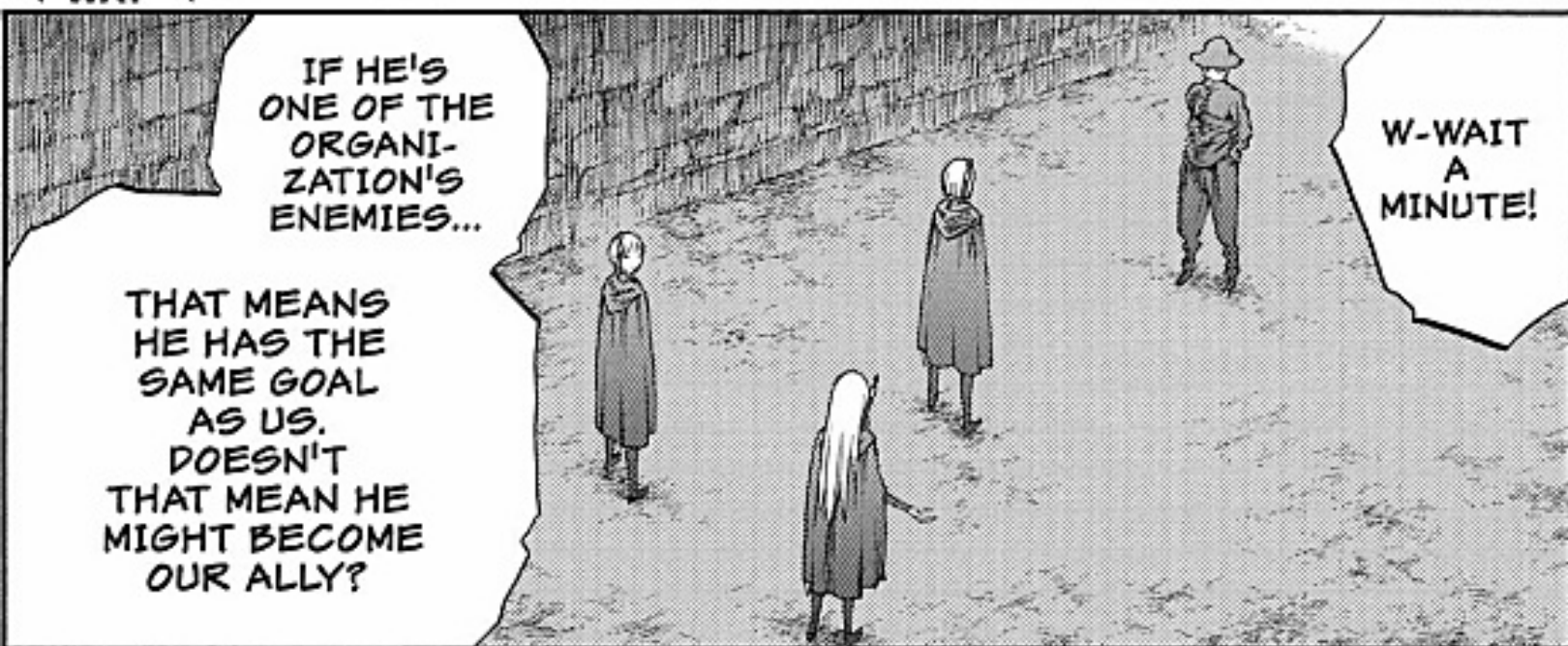
HUH?!



!



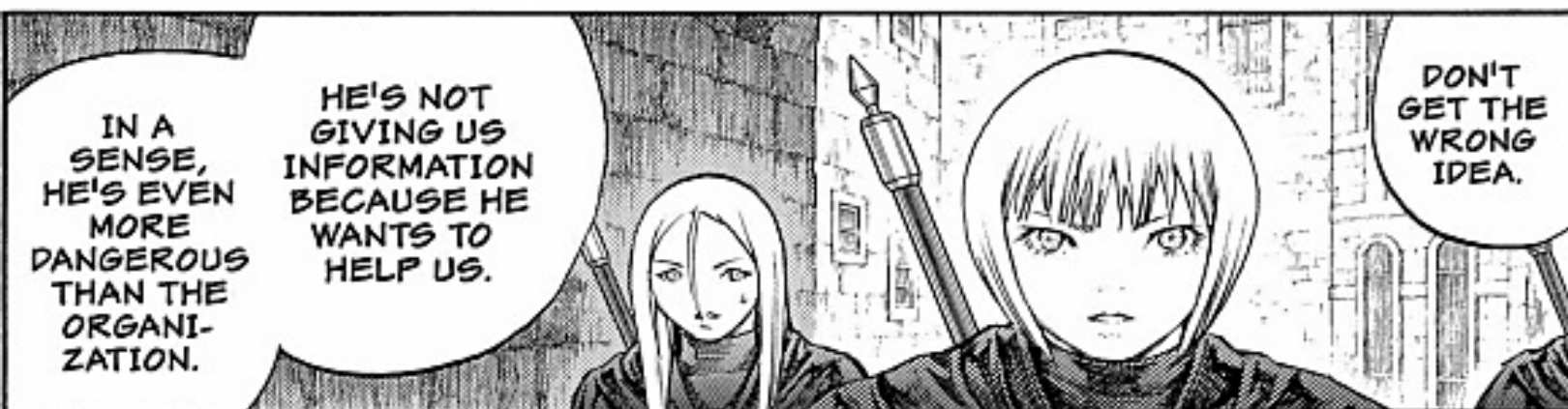




IF HE'S
ONE OF THE
ORGANI-
ZATION'S
ENEMIES...

THAT MEANS
HE HAS THE
SAME GOAL
AS US.
DOESN'T
THAT MEAN HE
MIGHT BECOME
OUR ALLY?

W-WAIT
A
MINUTE!



IN A
SENSE,
HE'S EVEN
MORE
DANGEROUS
THAN THE
ORGANI-
ZATION.

HE'S NOT
GIVING US
INFORMATION
BECAUSE HE
WANTS TO
HELP US.

DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA.



...SINCE
WE
HAVE
SUCH
A DEEP
RELATION-
SHIP.

MIRIA
MUST
HAVE
TOLD YOU
EVERY-
THING
ABOUT
ME...



HEH
HEH
HEH.

I
SEE...



THE
TRUTH
IS...

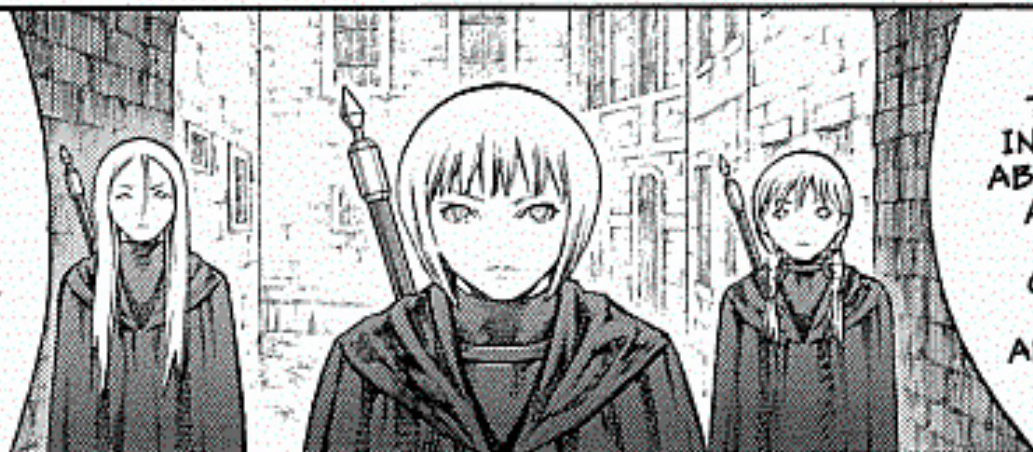
...HE'S
TRYING
TO GET
US FOUR
PARTIALLY
AWAKENED
WARRIORS
KILLED.

IF THEIR RESEARCH ON YOU WERE TO PRODUCE AWAKENED ONES THAT COULD BE CONTROLLED, THAT WOULD BE MOST TROUBLESOME FOR US.



HALF-AWAKENED ONES ARE A PHENOMENON WE'D RATHER NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

FORTUNATELY, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD IT. I TOLD HER I'D INFORM THE ORGANIZATION, BUT ACTUALLY I KEPT IT TO MYSELF.



THE FIRST INFORMATION ABOUT A HALF-AWAKENED ONE WAS OPHELIA'S REPORT ABOUT MIRIA.

I NEVER DREAMED THAT ALL FOUR OF YOU WOULD SURVIVE.



I HAD HOPED THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE RESOLVED BY SENDING YOU ALL TO THE NORTH.

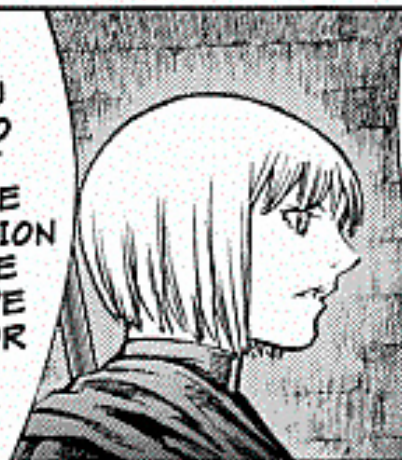
BUT SHE'S A CLEVER GIRL.

SHE DIDN'T DO WHAT I THOUGHT SHE WOULD.

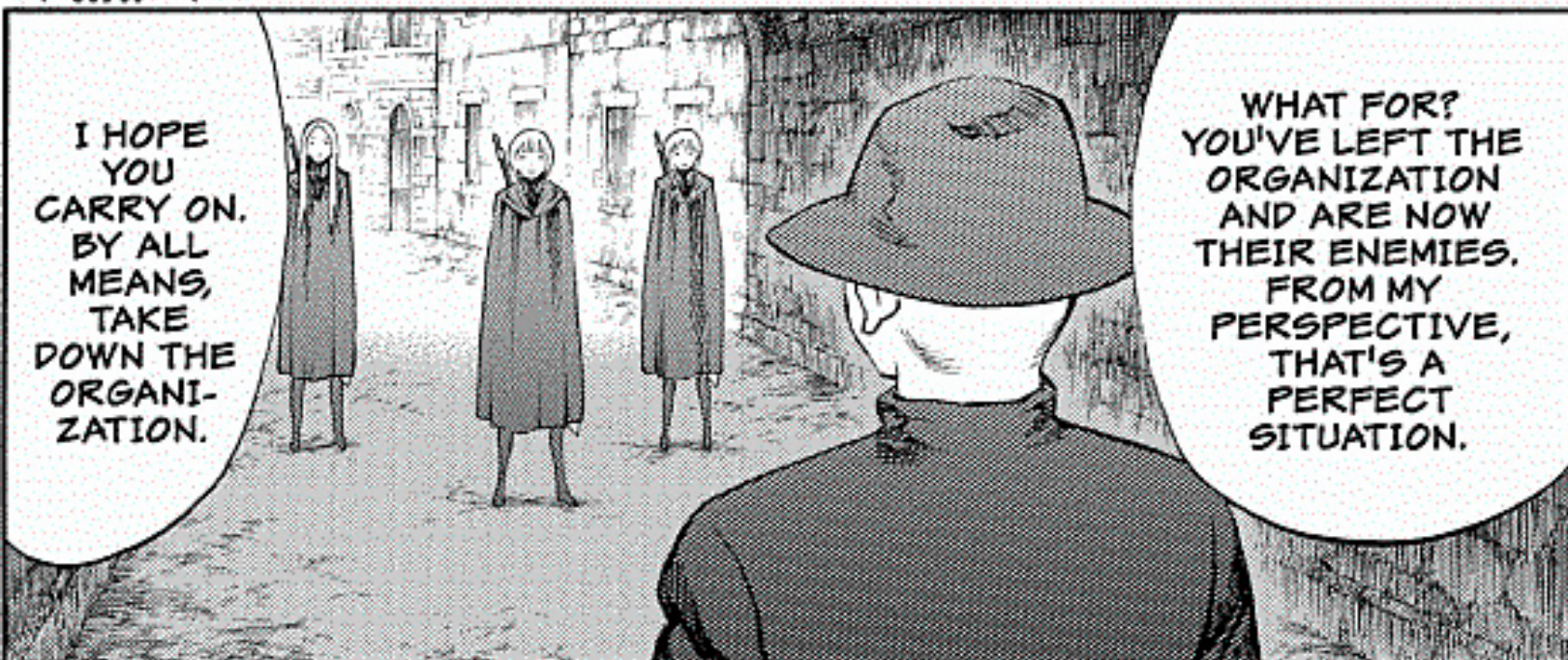


AFTER THAT, I TOLD MIRIA ABOUT THE WAR ON THE MAINLAND, HOPING THAT SHE'D REBEL AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION.

ARE YOU GOING TO REPORT US TO THE ORGANIZATION AND HAVE THEM WIPE US OUT FOR GOOD?

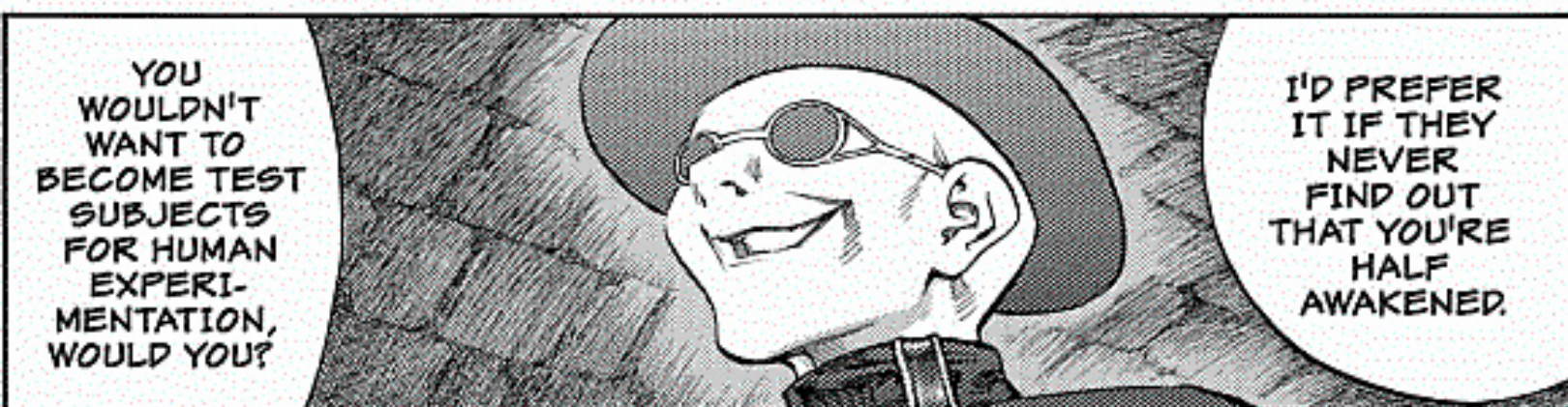


SO WHAT NOW?



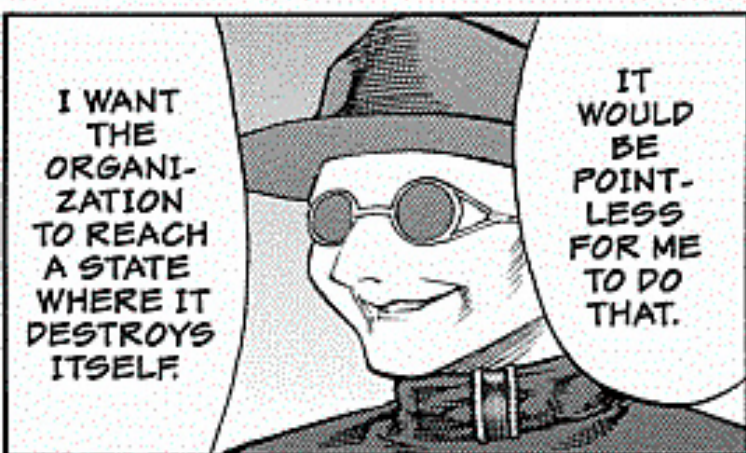
I HOPE YOU CARRY ON. BY ALL MEANS, TAKE DOWN THE ORGANIZATION.

WHAT FOR? YOU'VE LEFT THE ORGANIZATION AND ARE NOW THEIR ENEMIES. FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, THAT'S A PERFECT SITUATION.



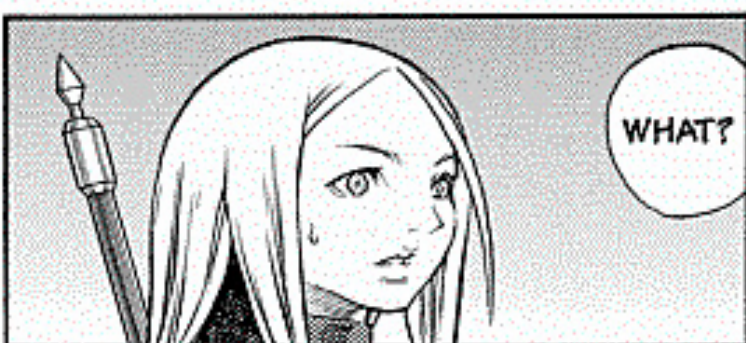
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BECOME TEST SUBJECTS FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION, WOULD YOU?

I'D PREFER IT IF THEY NEVER FIND OUT THAT YOU'RE HALF AWAKENED.

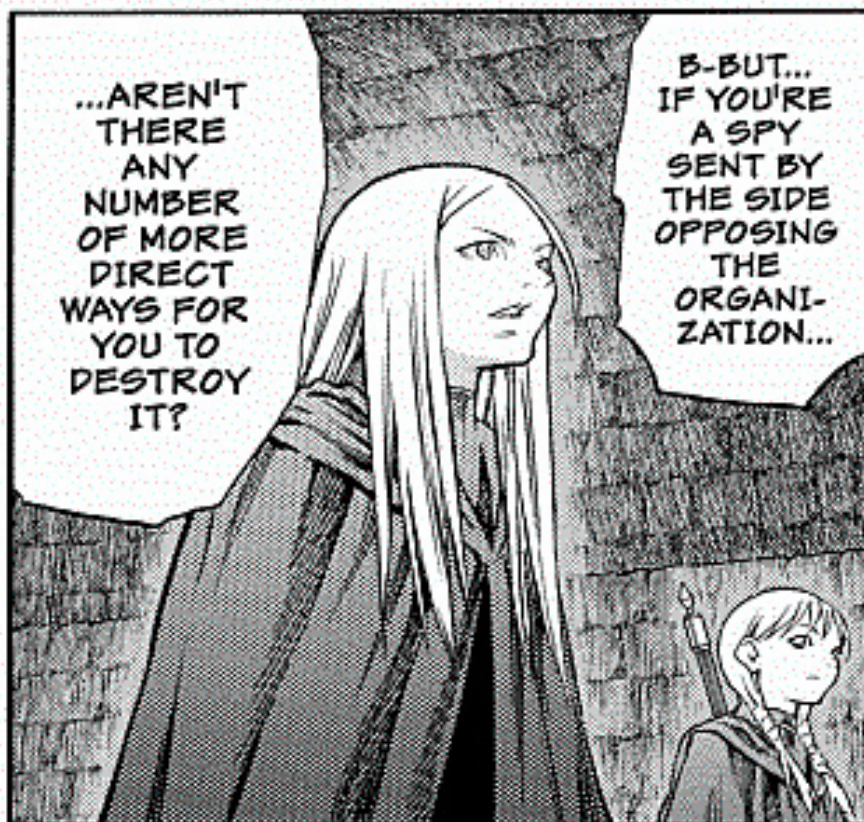


I WANT THE ORGANIZATION TO REACH A STATE WHERE IT DESTROYS ITSELF.

IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR ME TO DO THAT.



WHAT?



...AREN'T THERE ANY NUMBER OF MORE DIRECT WAYS FOR YOU TO DESTROY IT?

B-BUT... IF YOU'RE A SPY SENT BY THE SIDE OPPOSING THE ORGANIZATION...

IT WOULD
BE MUCH
HARDER
FOR MY
SIDE TO
INSERT
A SPY
THE NEXT
TIME
AROUND.

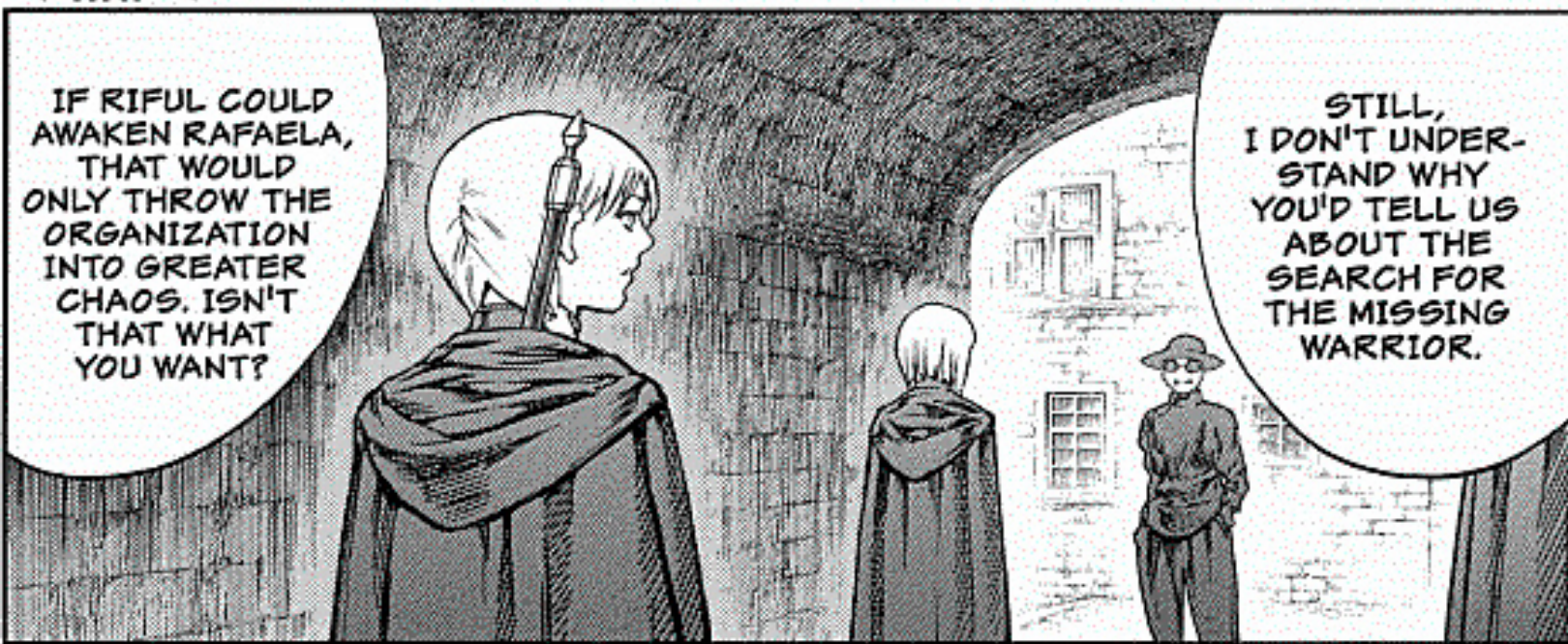
IF WE
DESTROY THEIR
FACILITIES,
THEY'LL JUST
BUILD NEW ONES
IN LOCATIONS
THAT ARE
BETTER
HIDDEN.

IF I CAN
WORK
WITHOUT
BEING
DETECTED
AND
UNDERMINE
THEM FROM
THE INSIDE,
THAT WOULD
BE IDEAL.

IT'S
BETTER
FOR ME
TO STAY
UNDER
COVER AND
SEE HOW
THINGS
DEVELOP.

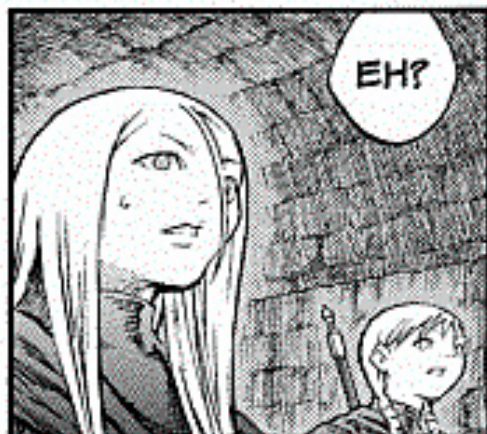
...THEN
THEY'D
THINK
TWICE
ABOUT
CONTINU-
ING ANY
KIND OF
RESEARCH
AT ALL.

HOW-
EVER,
IF THE
RESEARCH
FACILITIES
WERE
DESTROYED
AS A
RESULT OF
INTERNAL
CHAOS...

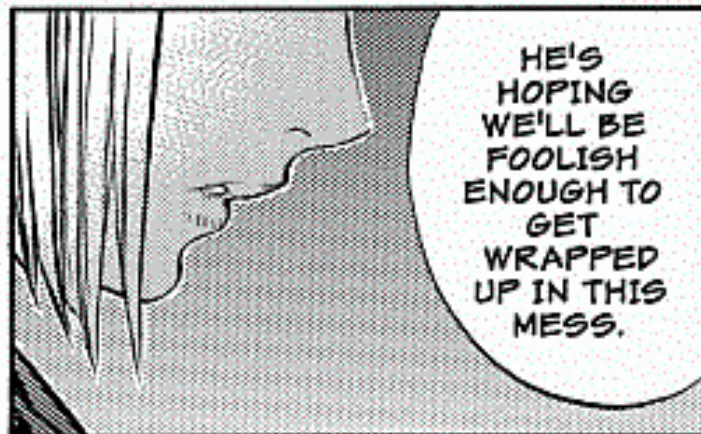


IF RIFUL COULD AWAKEN RAFAELA, THAT WOULD ONLY THROW THE ORGANIZATION INTO GREATER CHAOS. ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

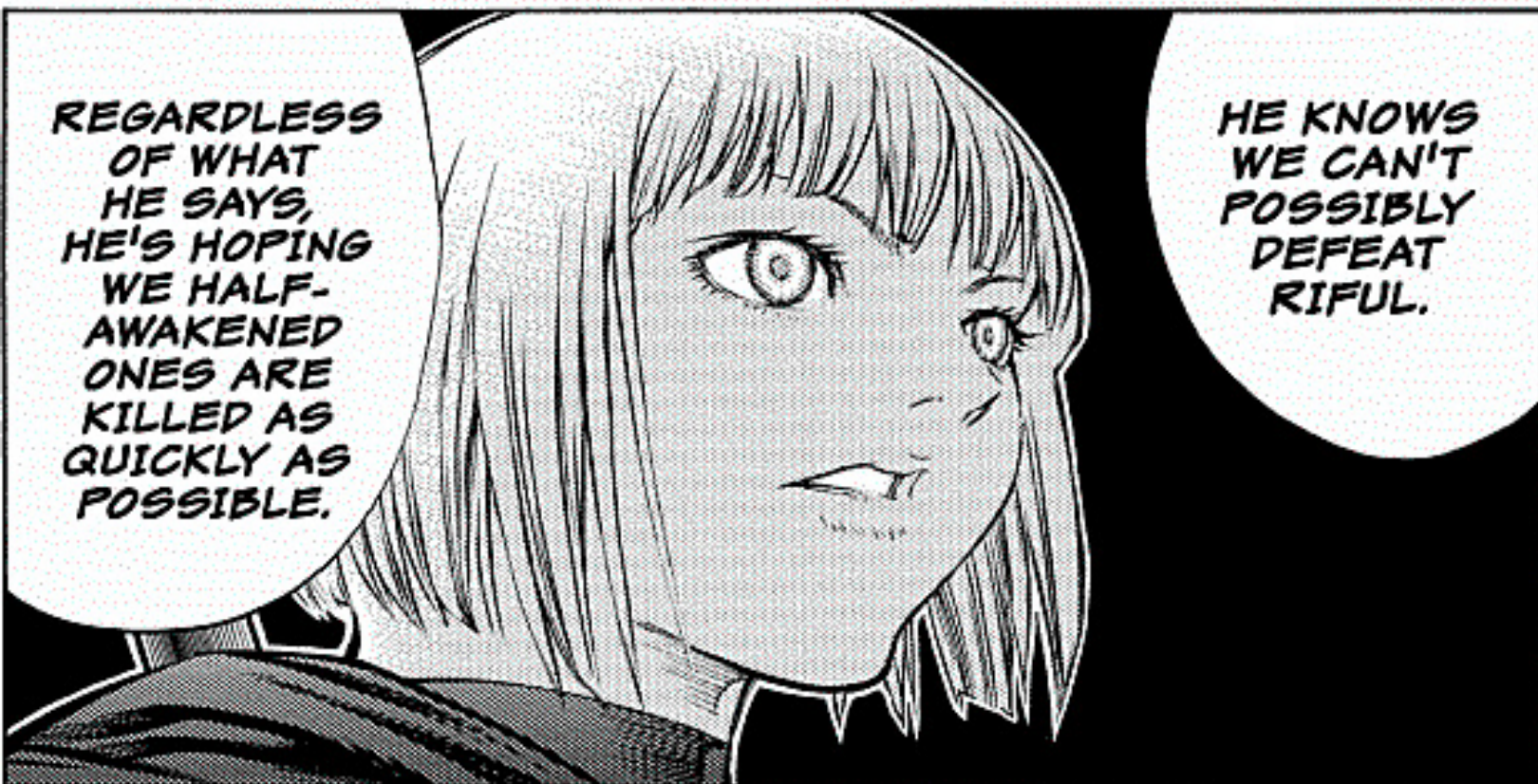
STILL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D TELL US ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING WARRIOR.



EH?



HE'S HOPING WE'LL BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO GET WRAPPED UP IN THIS MESS.



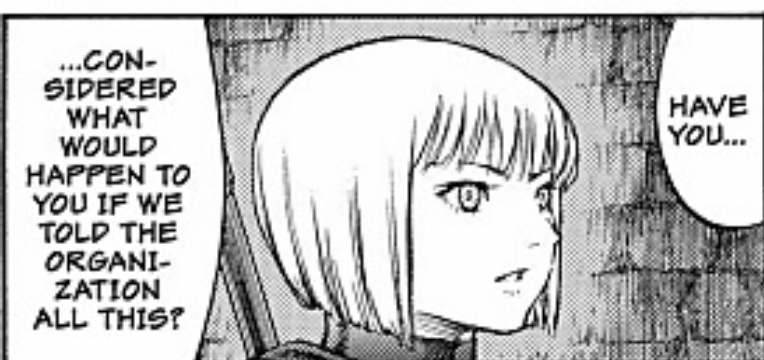
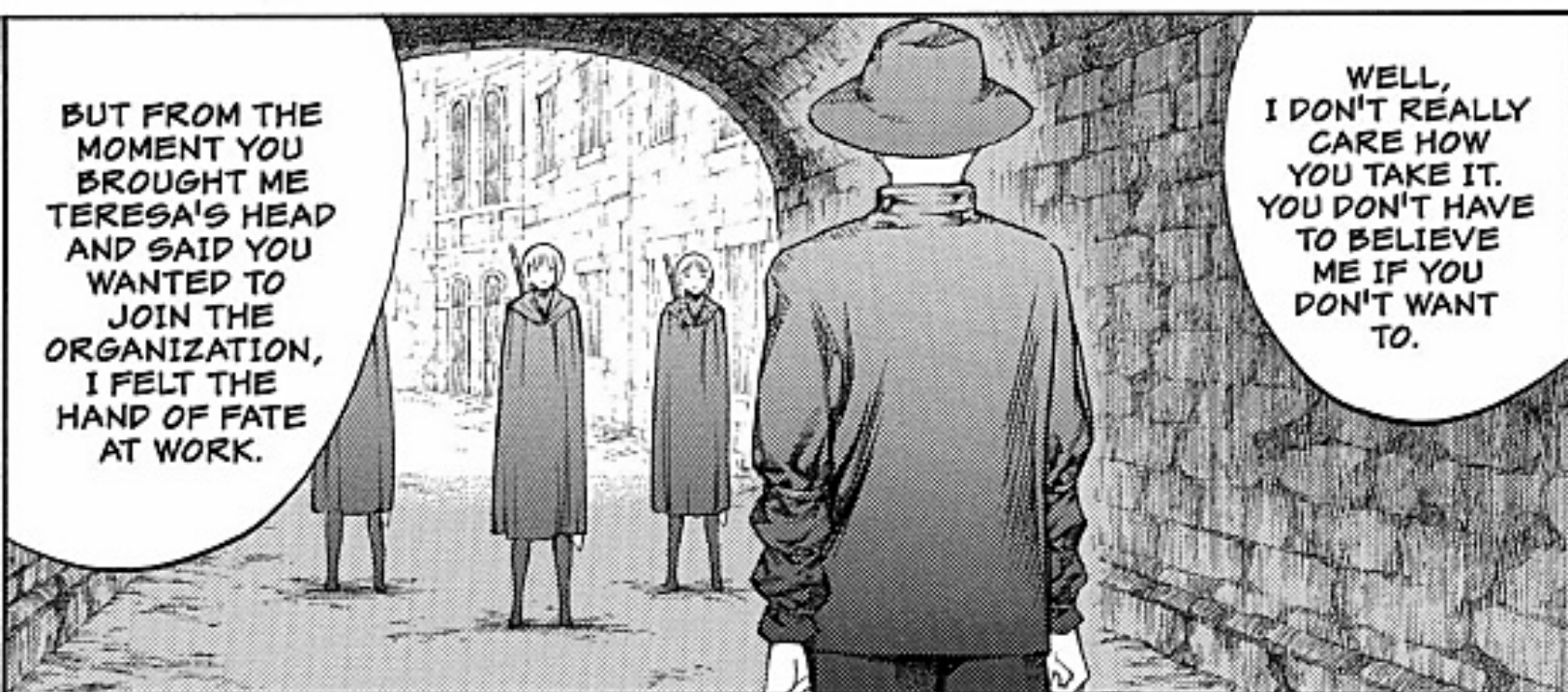
REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE SAYS, HE'S HOPING WE HALF-AWAKENED ONES ARE KILLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

HE KNOWS WE CAN'T POSSIBLY DEFEAT RIFUL.

クレイア



SCENE 85: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 3



SSHFF

WELL
THEN
...

YOU CAN
SAVE
RENÉE
AND
RAFAELA,
OR YOU
CAN JUST
KEEP
RUNNING.
IT'S UP
TO YOU.

FROM THIS
POINT ON,
YOU'RE
FREE TO DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

...I THINK
THE TWO
OF YOU
MIGHT
GET
ALONG...

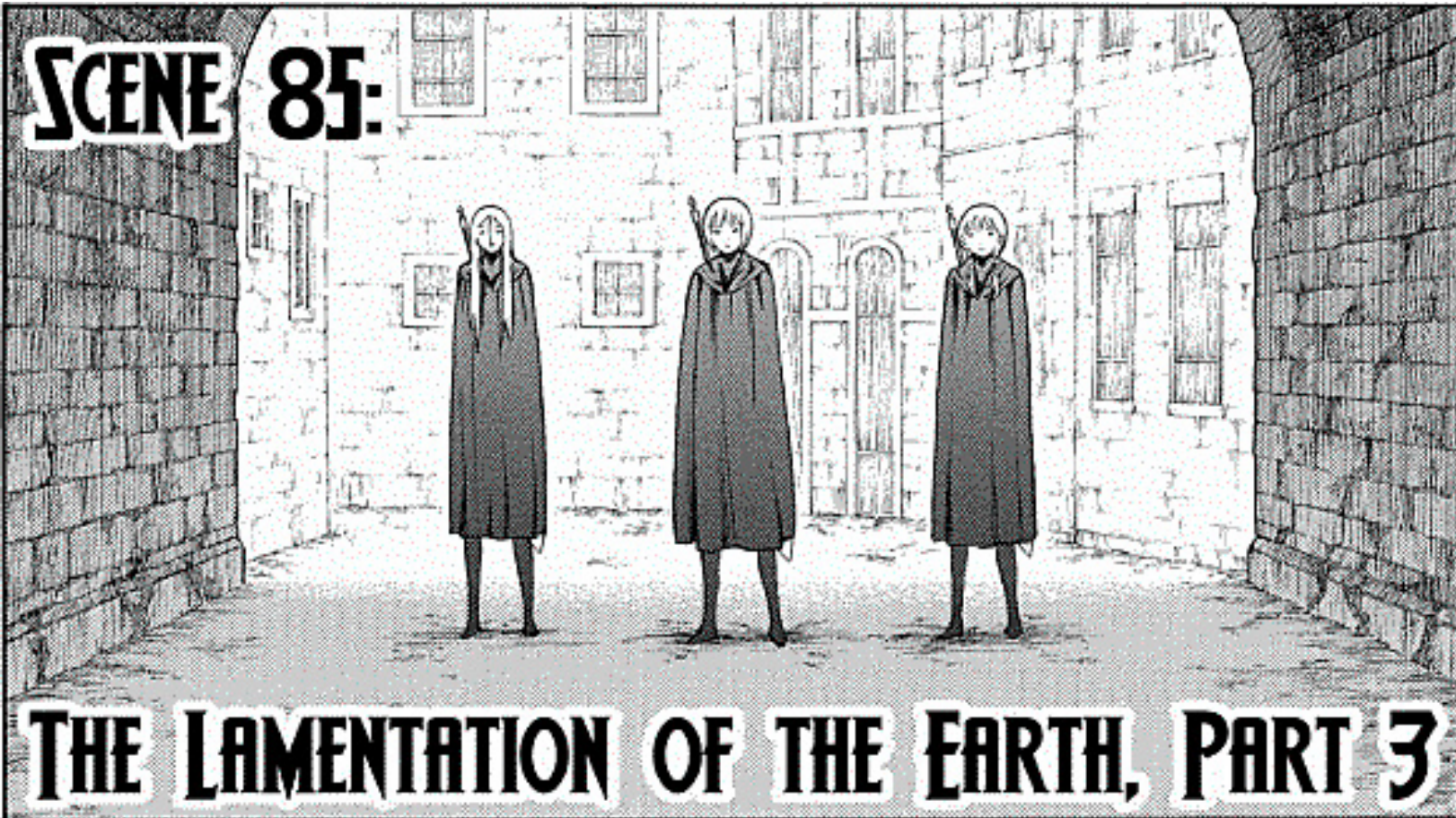
REGARD-
LESS OF
WHETHER
YOU'RE
FRIENDS
OR
ENEMIES
...

SUR-
PRISINGLY
WELL.

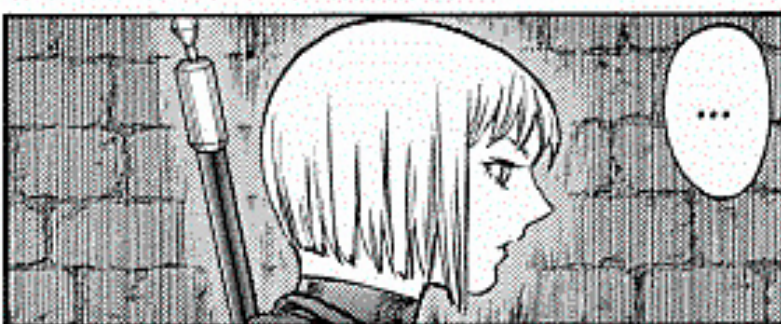
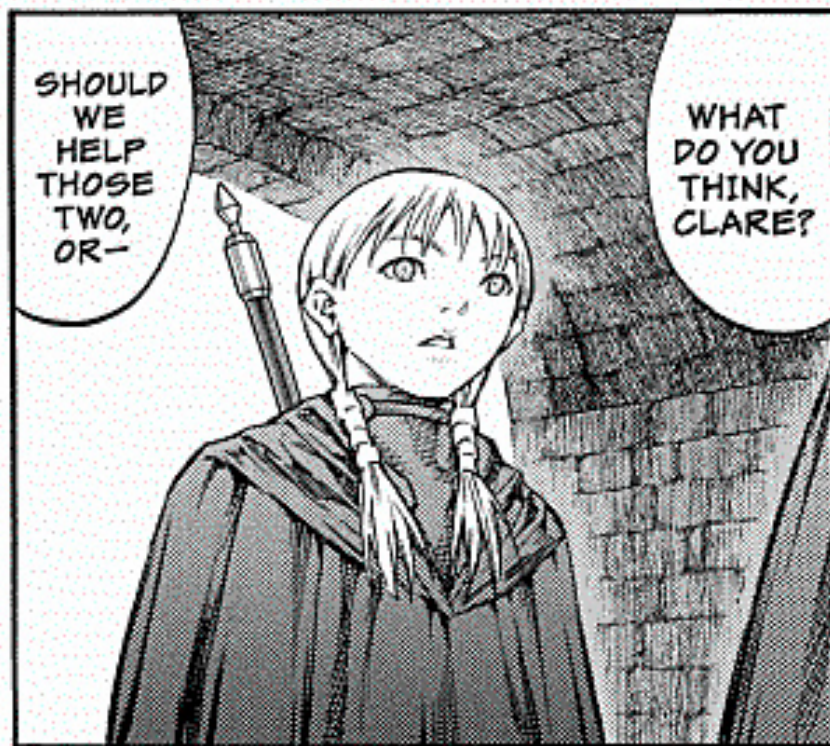
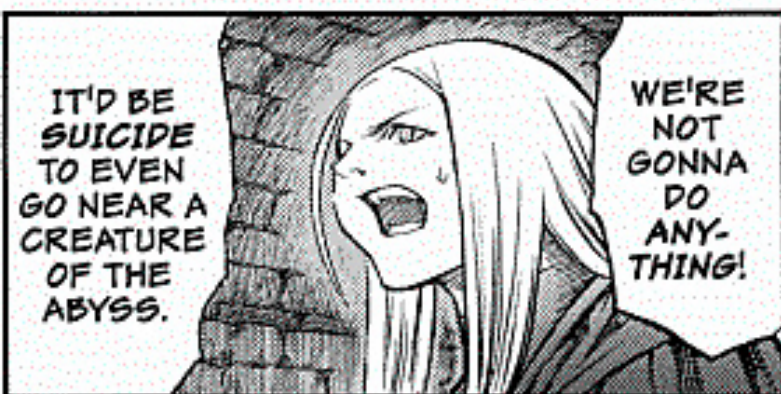
I
REALLY
LIKED
HER.

A LONG
TIME AGO,
I USED
TO TAKE
CARE OF
RAFAELA
TOO.

SCENE 85:



THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 3



WHICHEVER
ROAD WE TAKE,
I DOUBT
WE COULD FIND
RIFUL'S TRAIL
IN A REGION
AS VAST
AS THIS.

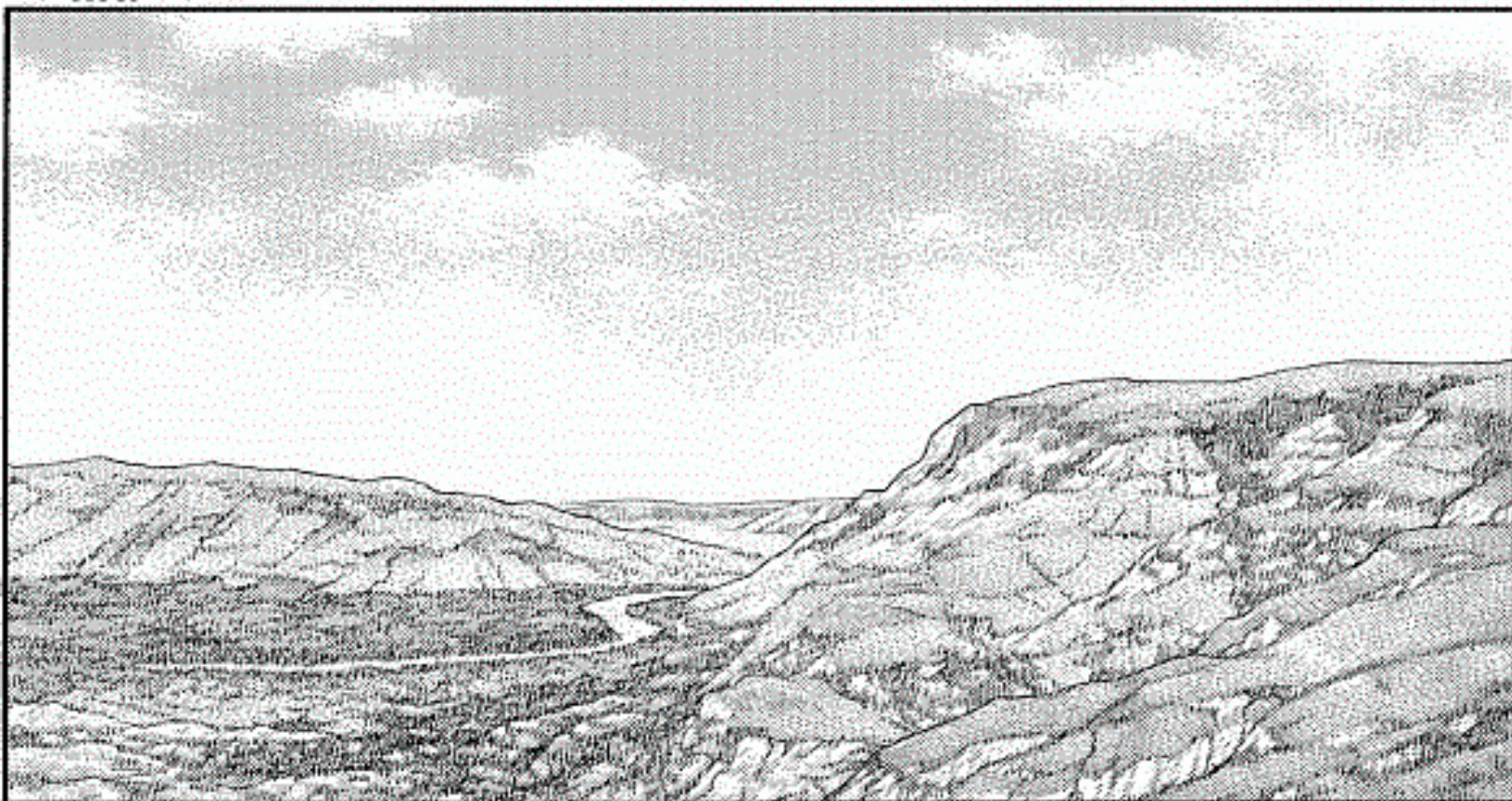
FOR NOW,
ANYWAY,
LET'S
CONTINUE
WITH OUR
PREVIOUS
PLAN AND
KEEP
HEADING
WEST.

WHAT
WOULD YOU
FEEL LIKE
DOING
THEN?

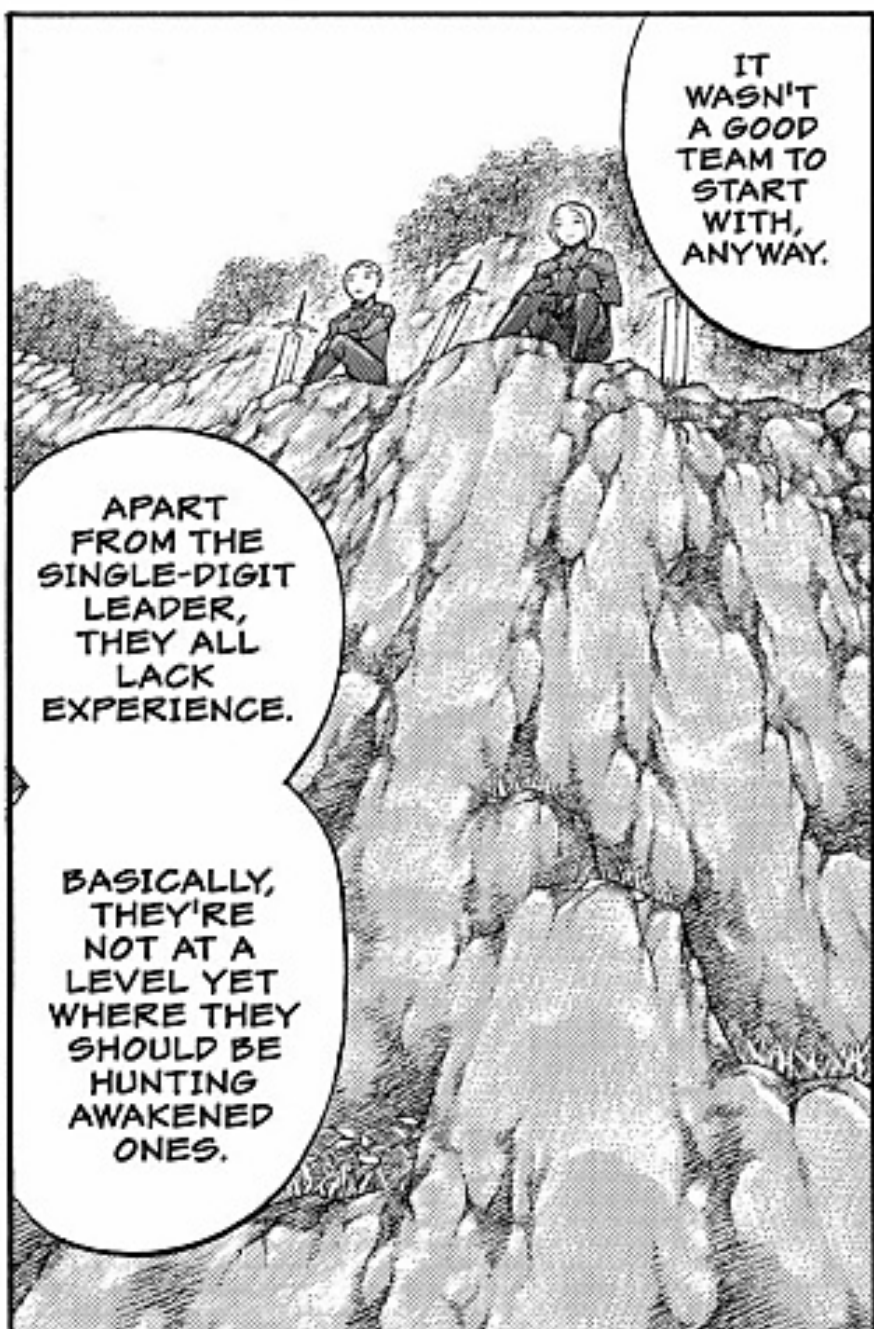
BUT
SUPPOSE
WE DID
FIND
HER?

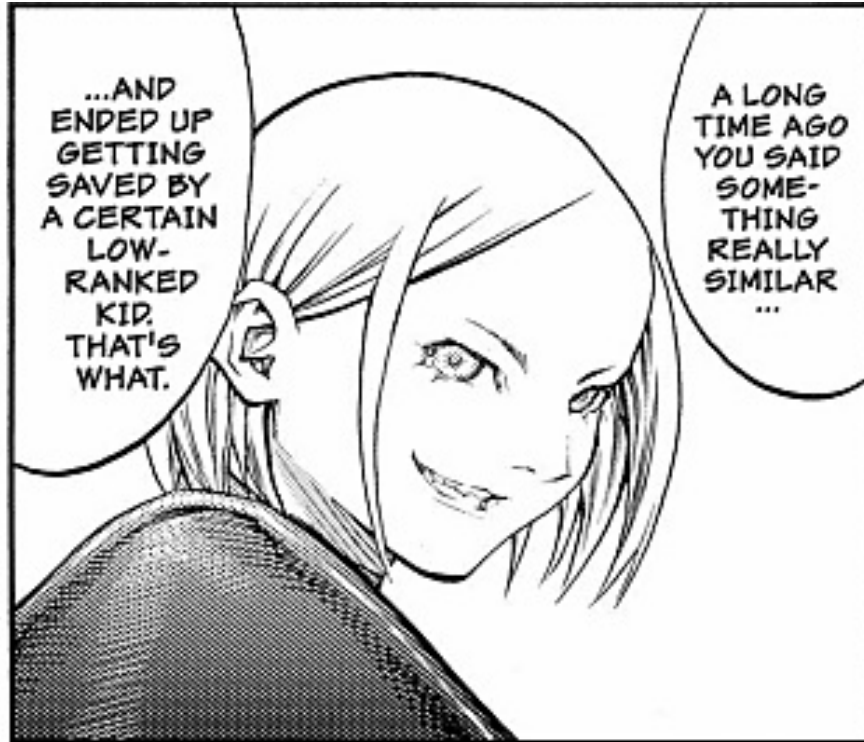
WE'LL
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT...

...WHEN
THE
TIME
COMES.









...AND
ENDED UP
GETTING
SAVED BY
A CERTAIN
LOW-
RANKED
KID.
THAT'S
WHAT.

A LONG
TIME AGO
YOU SAID
SOME-
THING
REALLY
SIMILAR
...



HEY,
IT'S NOT
EXACTLY
A HAPPY
MEMORY
FOR ME
EITHER.

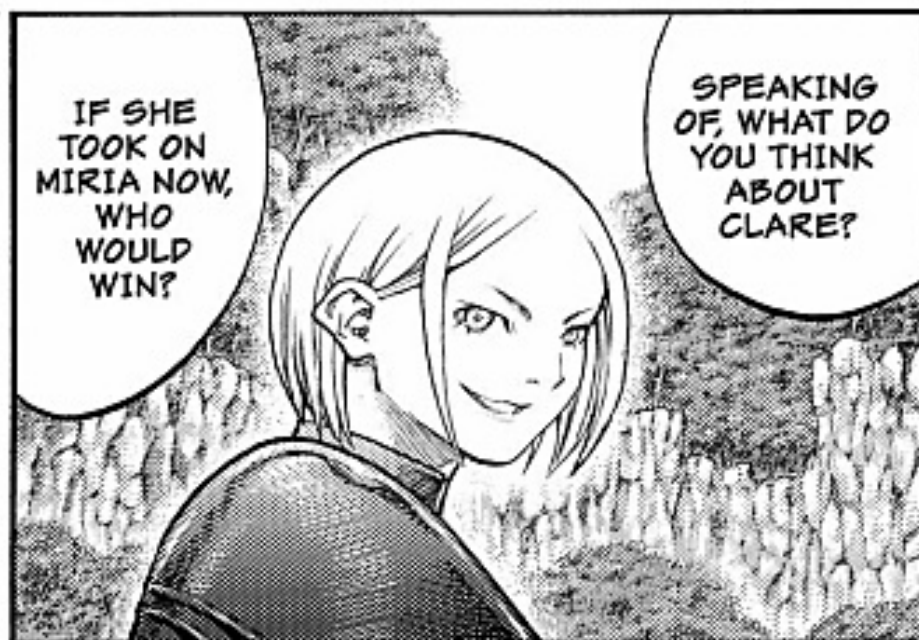
AH,
SORRY,
SORRY!

IT'S
EMBAR-
RASSING.

DON'T
REMINDE
ME
ABOUT
THAT.

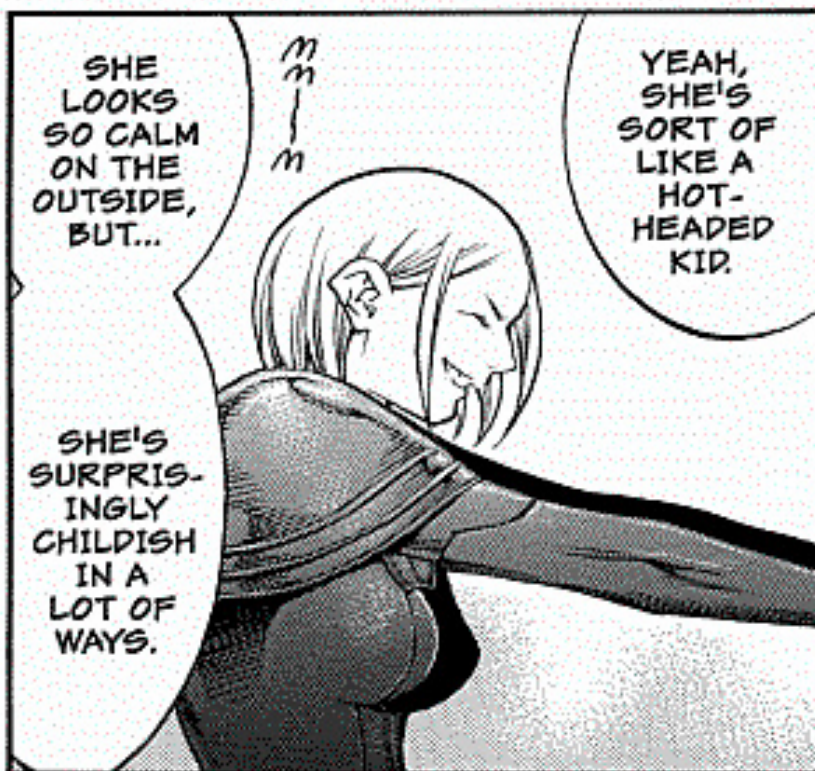
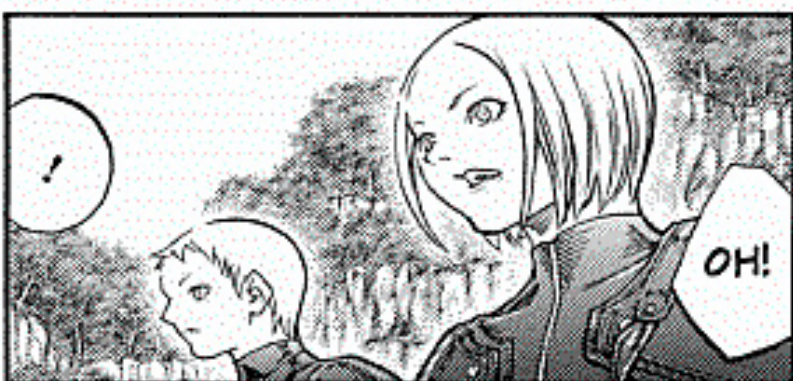
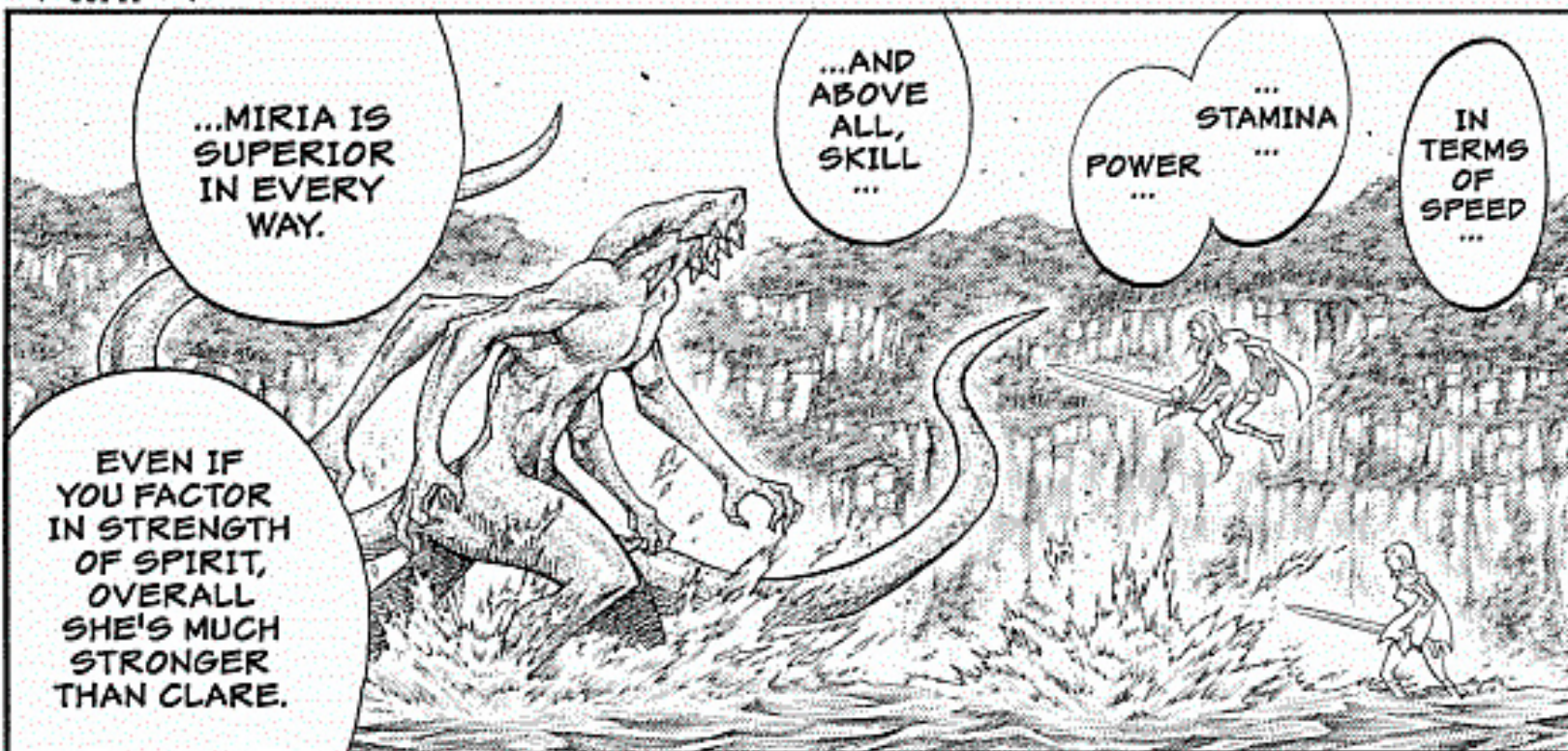


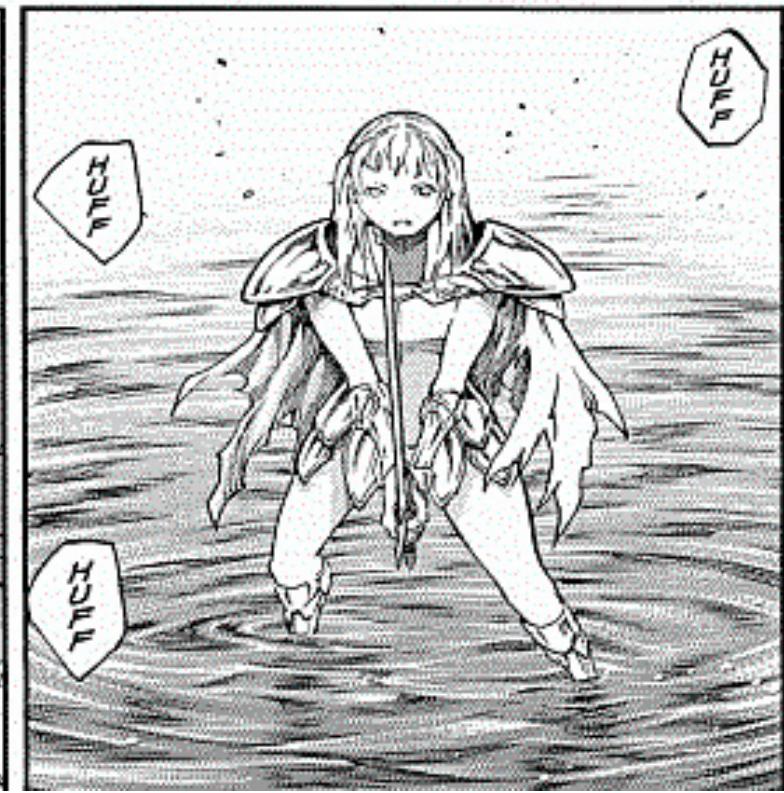
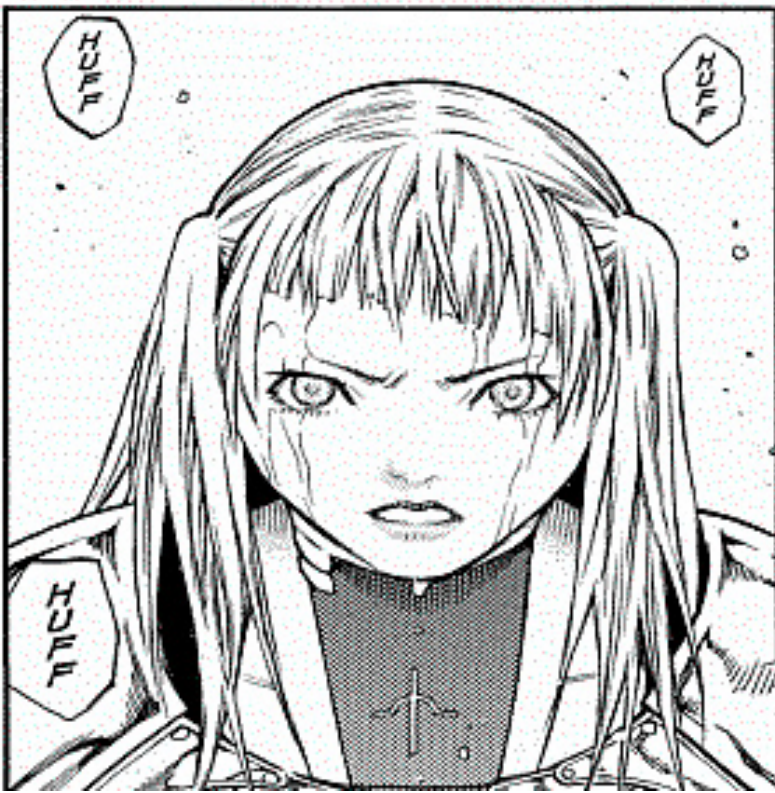
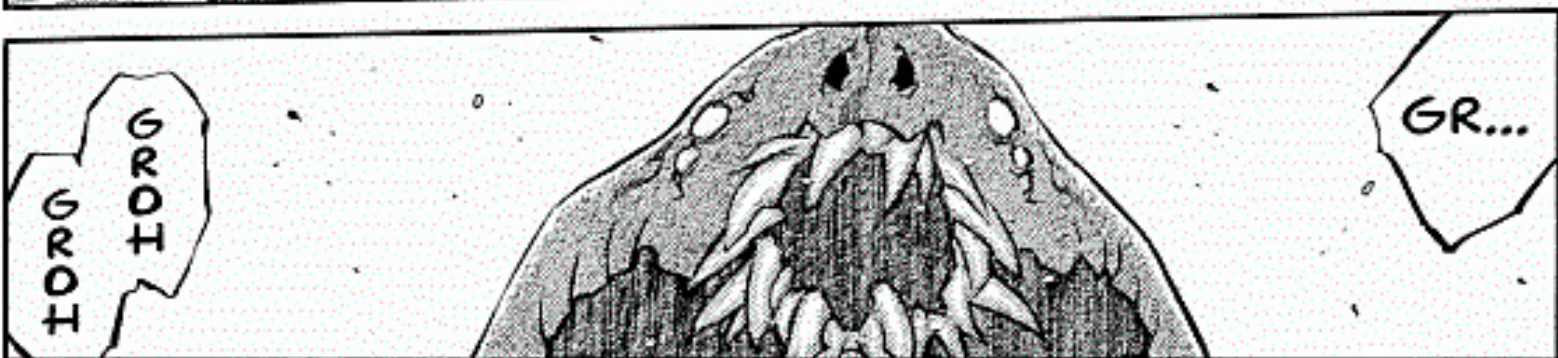
NO
WAY
TO
TELL.

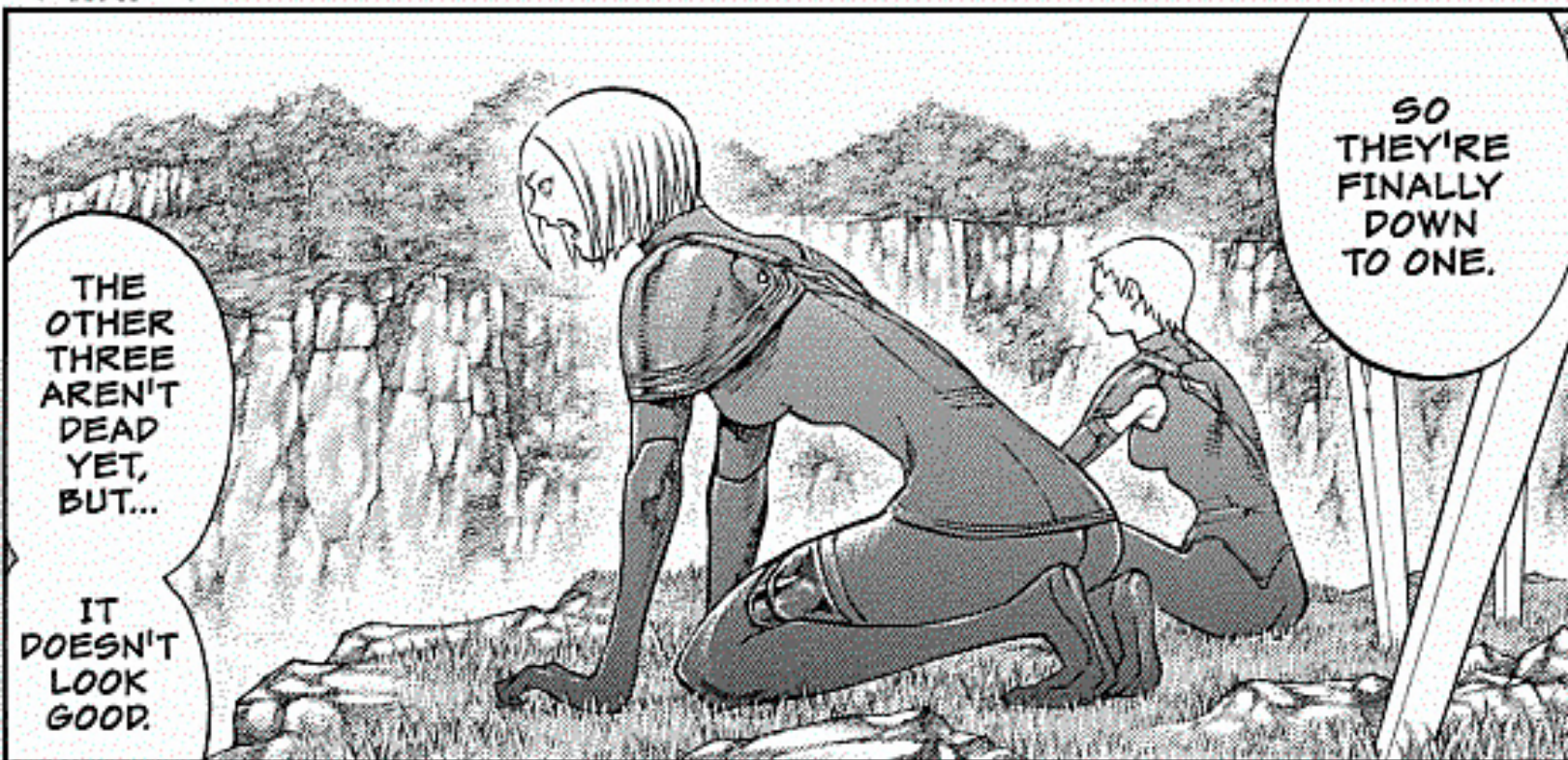


IF SHE
TOOK ON
MIRIA NOW,
WHO
WOULD
WIN?

SPEAKING
OF, WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT
CLARE?







THE OTHER THREE AREN'T DEAD YET, BUT...

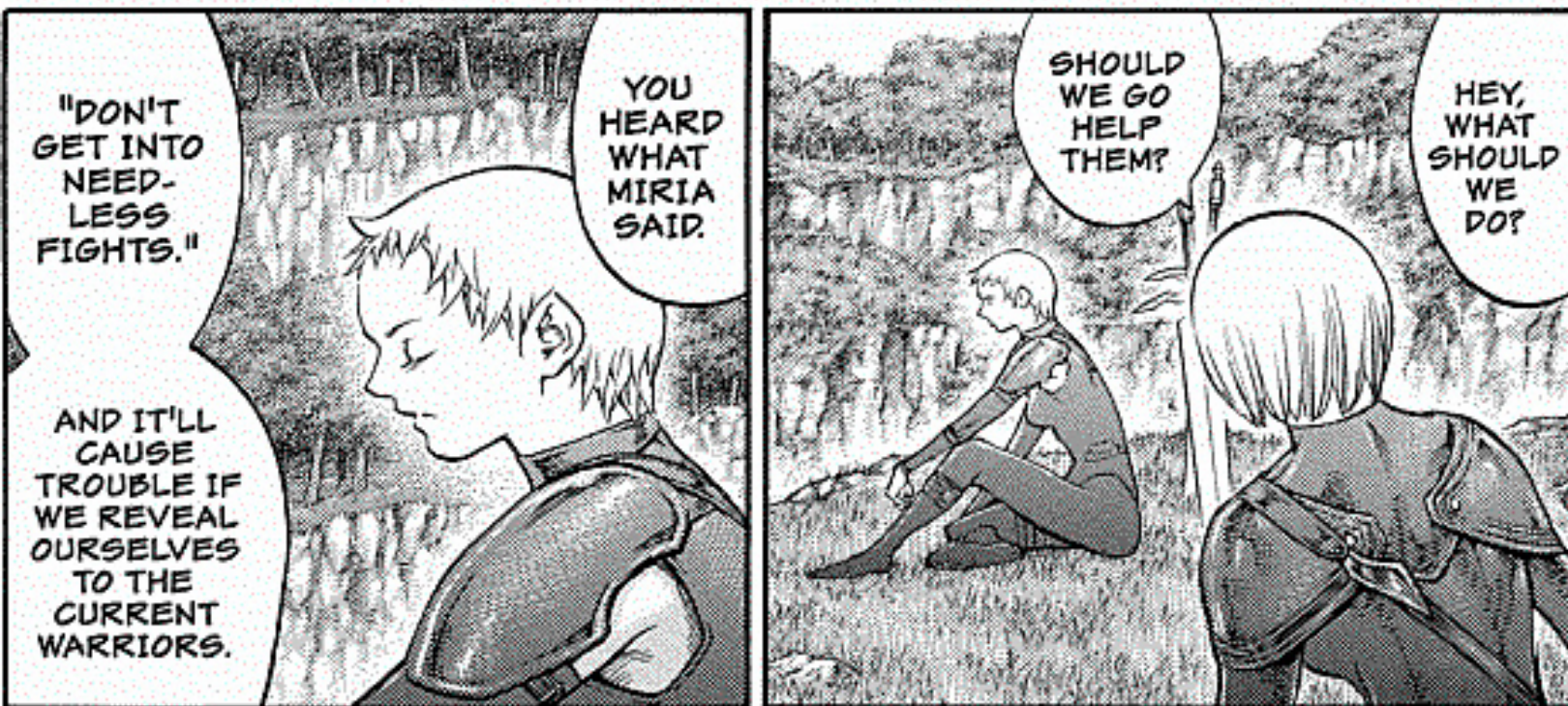
SO THEY'RE FINALLY DOWN TO ONE.

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.



IT SEEMS SHE'S THE ONLY MEMBER OF THIS UNIT WHO'S EVER FOUGHT AN AWAKENED ONE.

SHE DID WELL TO FIGHT THIS LONG.



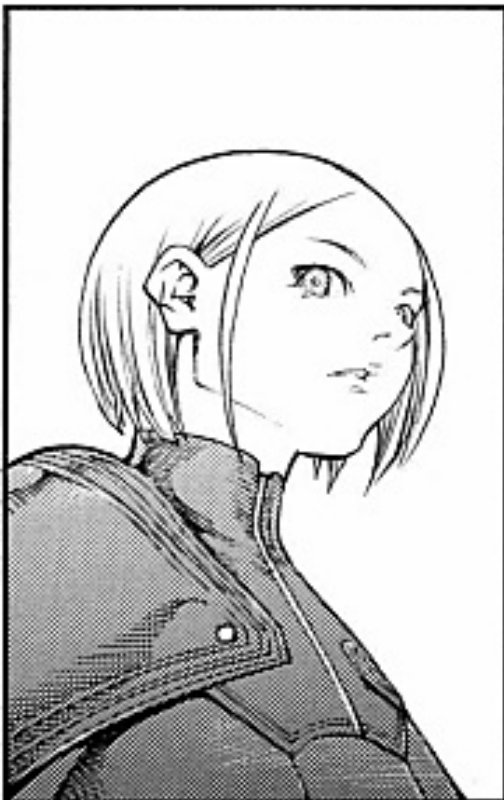
"DON'T GET INTO NEED-LESS FIGHTS."

YOU HEARD WHAT MIRIA SAID.

AND IT'LL CAUSE TROUBLE IF WE REVEAL OURSELVES TO THE CURRENT WARRIORS.

SHOULD WE GO HELP THEM?

HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



...I'M
WILLING
TO BACK
YOU UP.
NOT THAT
I'M EN-
COURAGING
YOU TO
DO IT.



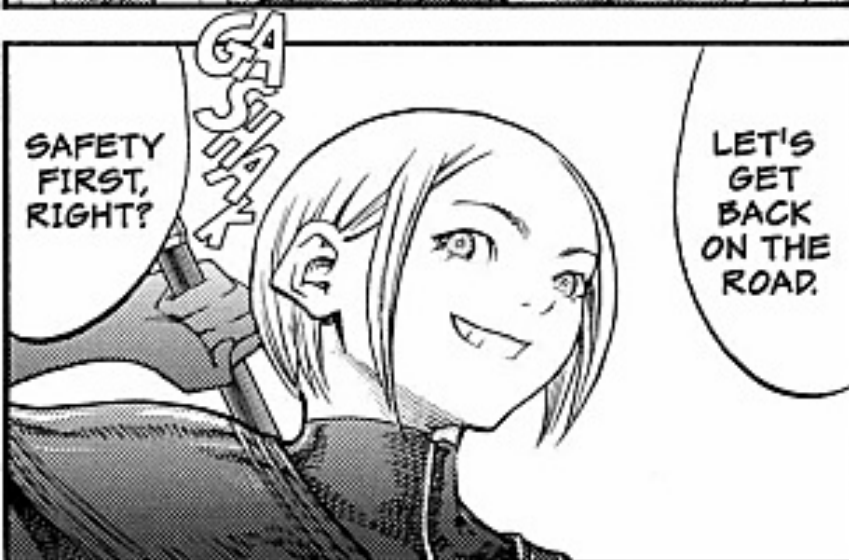
BUT,
DESPITE
ALL THAT,
IF YOU TELL
ME THAT YOU
JUST CAN'T
STAY OUT
OF IT...



AND
BESIDES,
I HATE
GETTING
WET.

IT'S
NOT LIKE
THEY'RE
OUR
COMRADES
OR ANY-
THING.

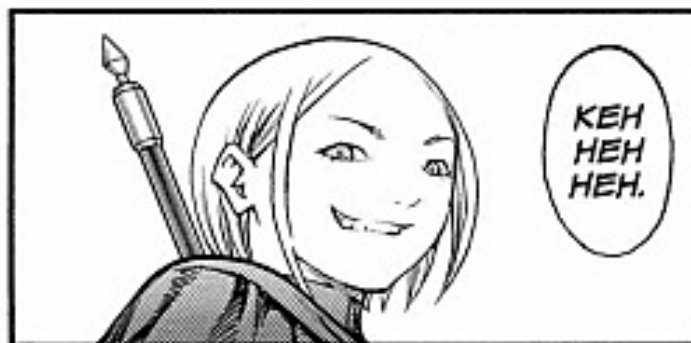
NAH,
IT'D BE
BETTER
NOT
TO.

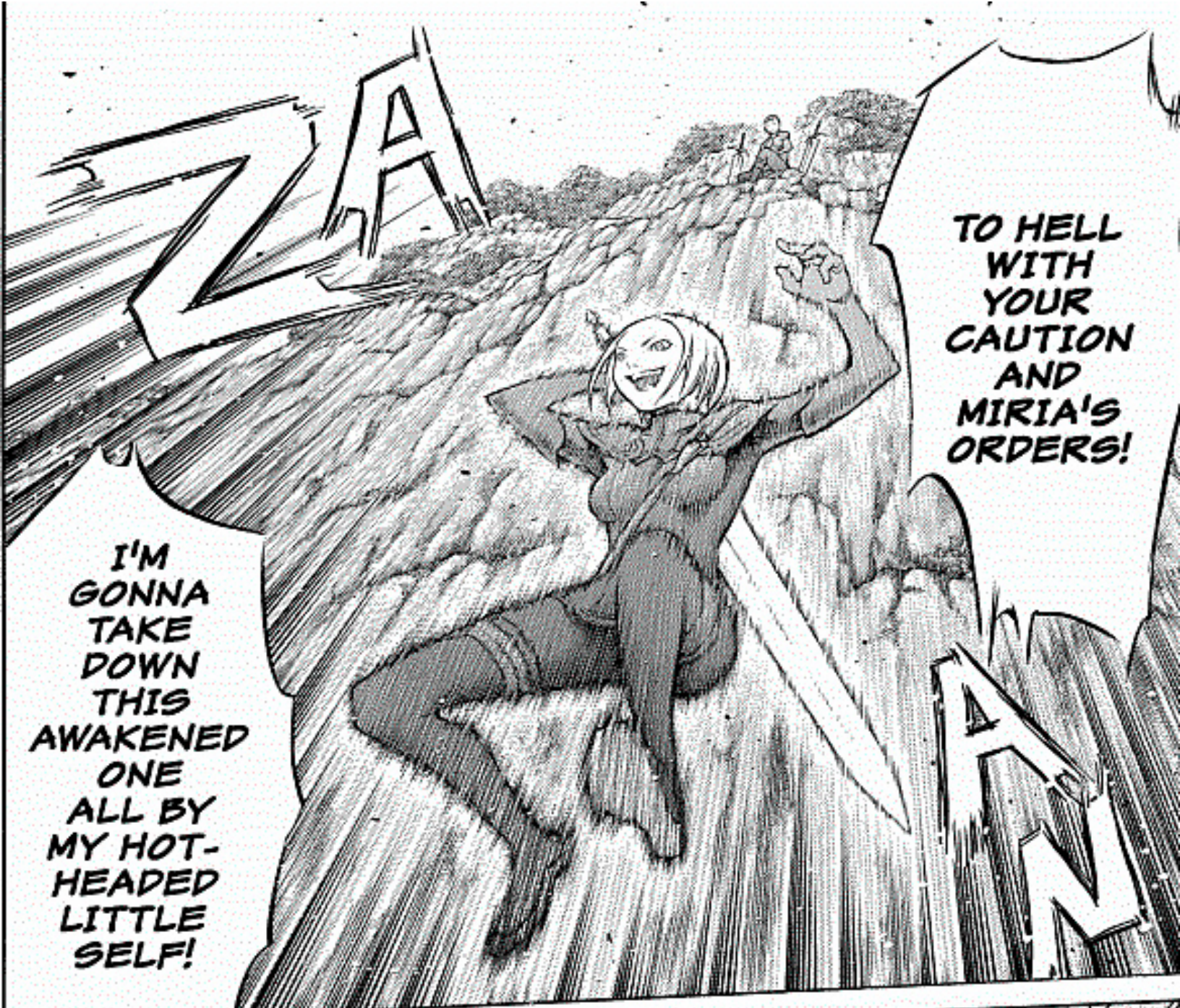


SAFETY
FIRST,
RIGHT?

LET'S
GET
BACK
ON THE
ROAD.

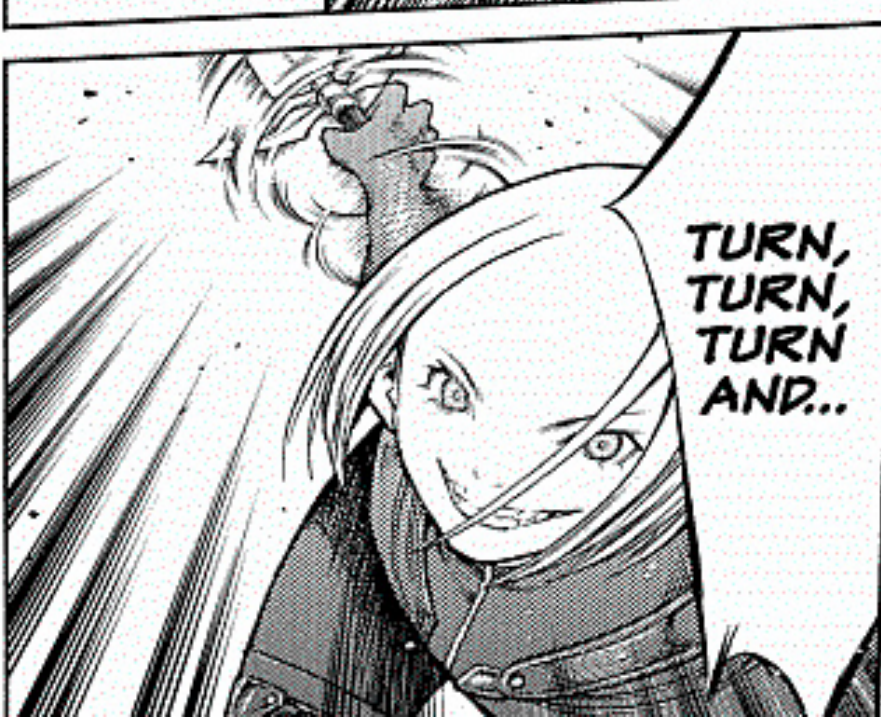




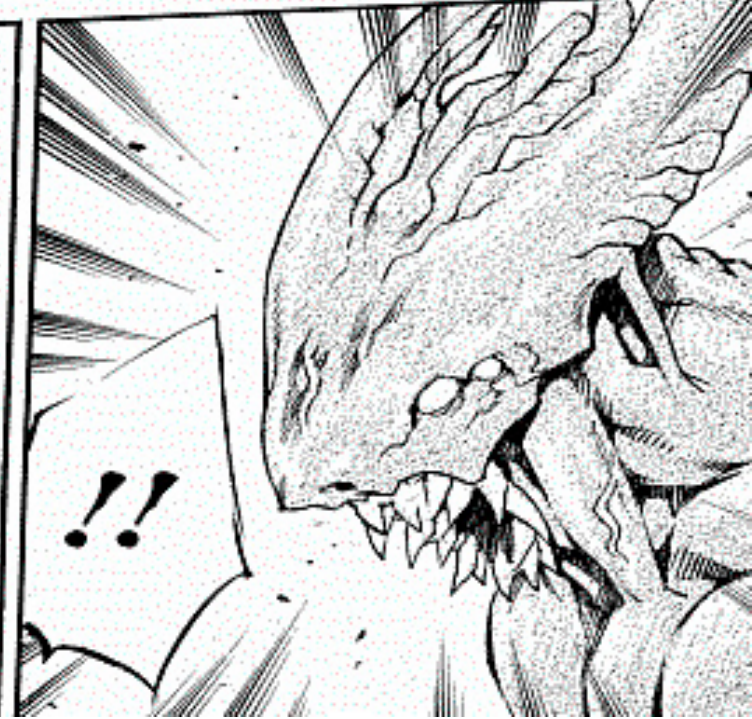


I'M
GONNA
TAKE
DOWN
THIS
AWAKENED
ONE
ALL BY
MY HOT-
HEADED
LITTLE
SELF!

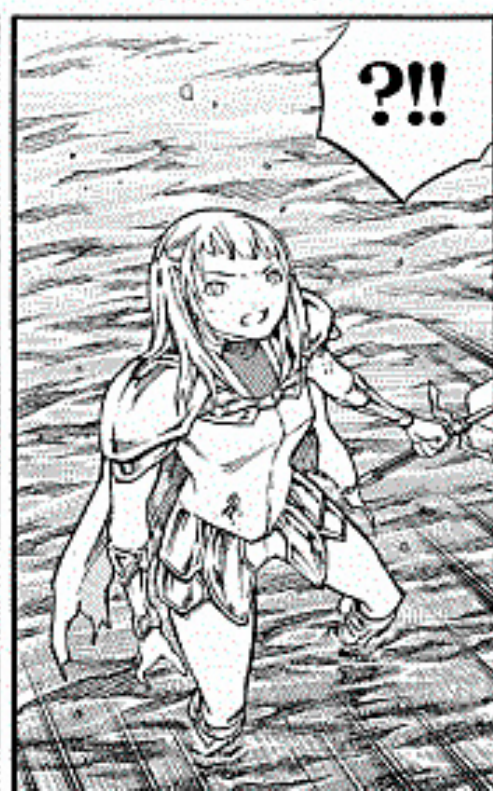
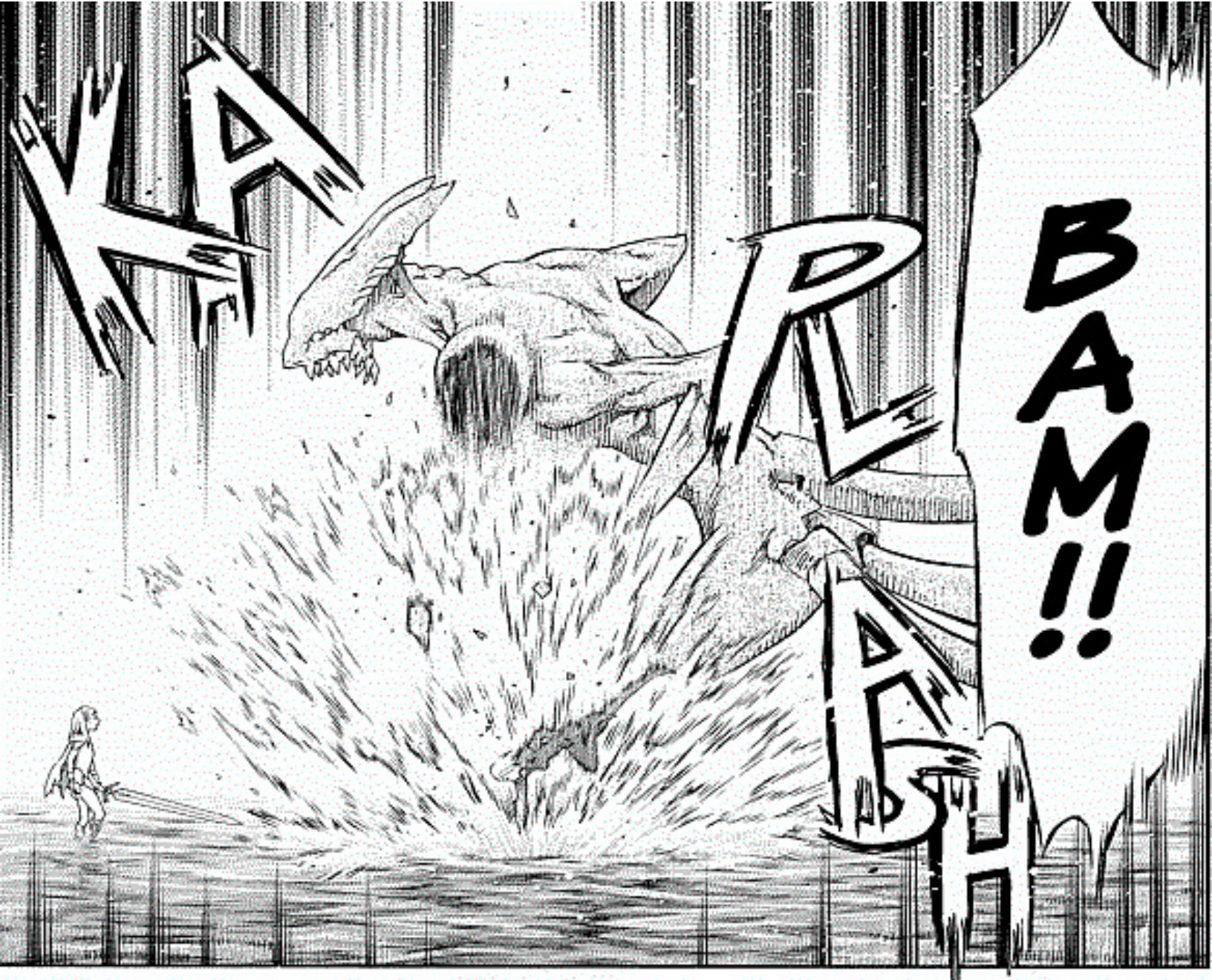
TO HELL
WITH
YOUR
CAUTION
AND
MIRIA'S
ORDERS!



TURN,
TURN,
TURN
AND...



!!



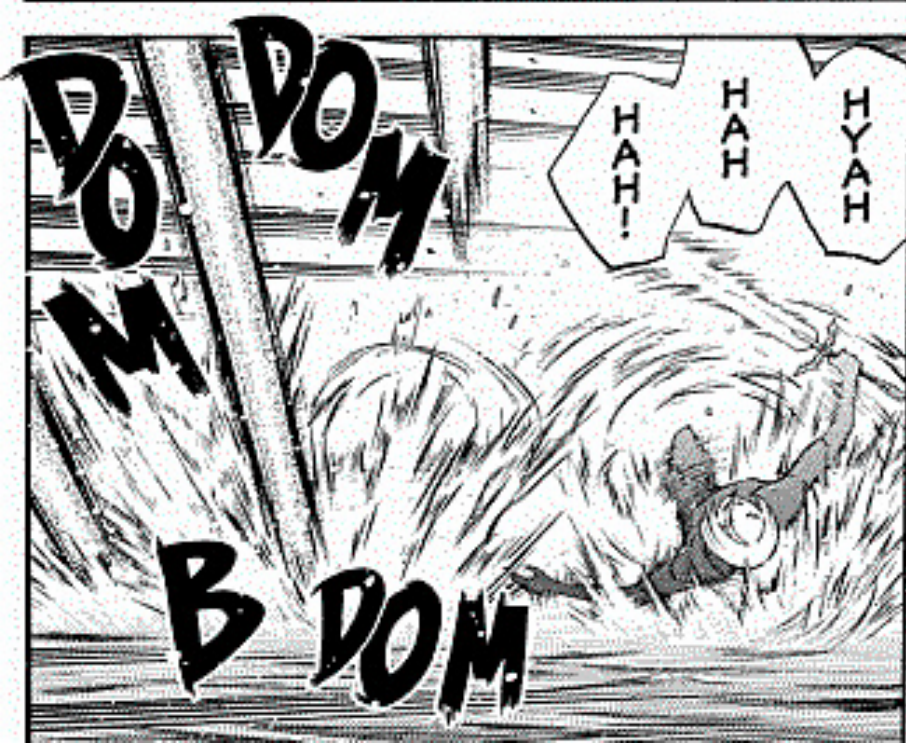
THERE'S
JUST NO
STOPPING
HER.

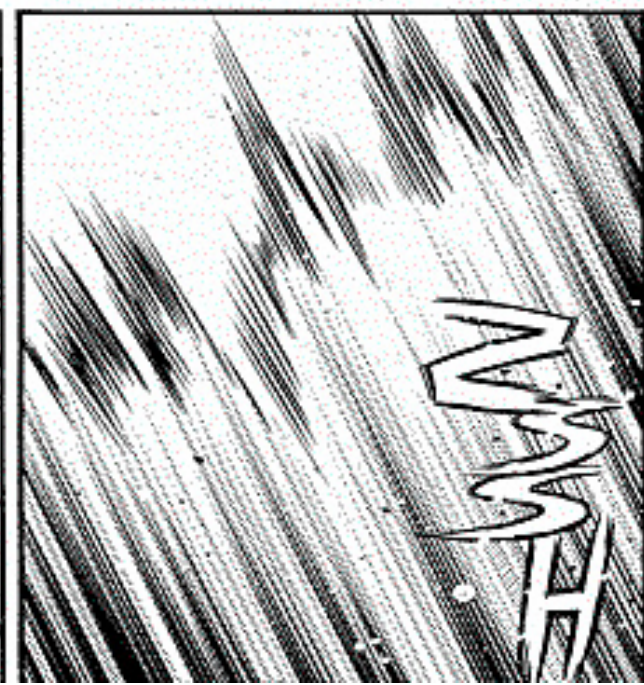
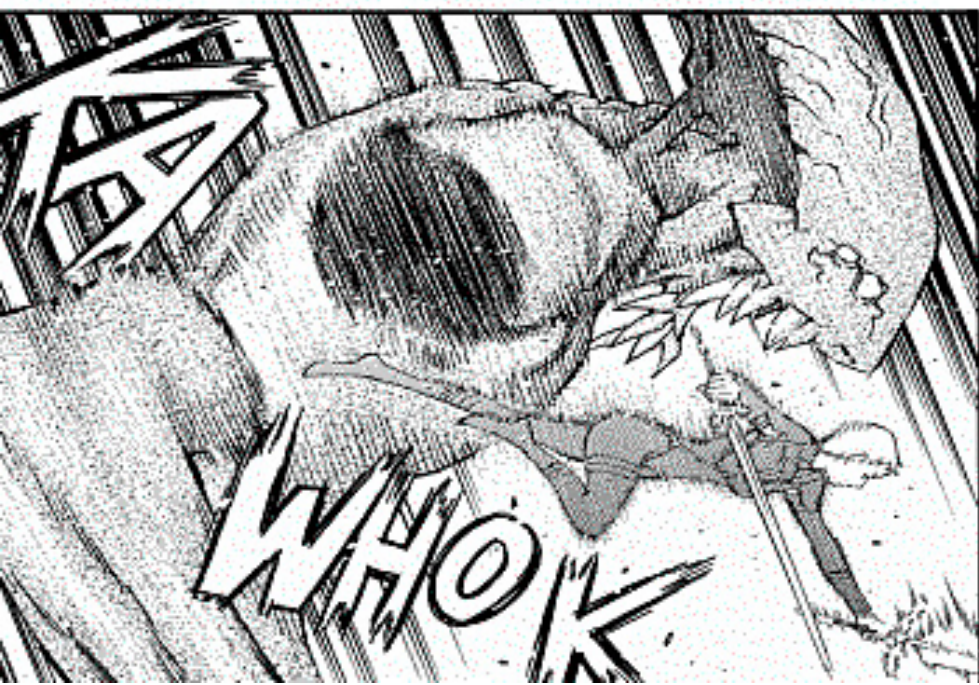
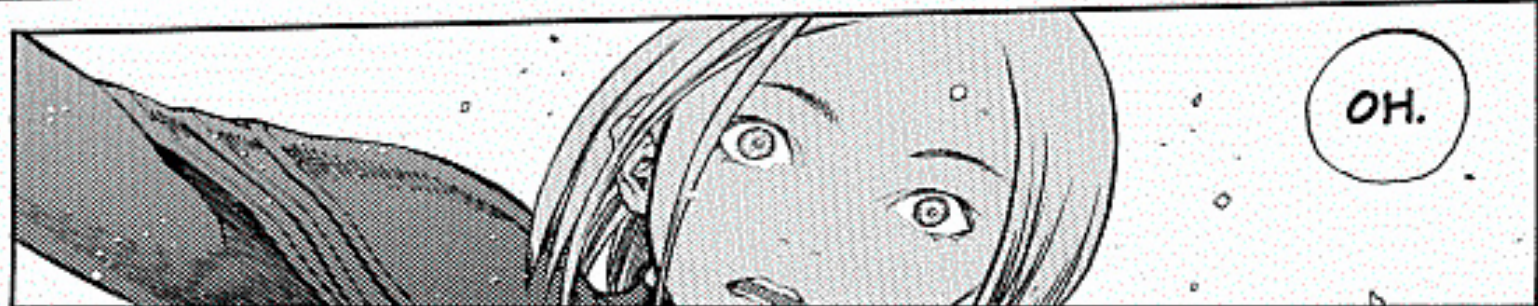
GASHAK

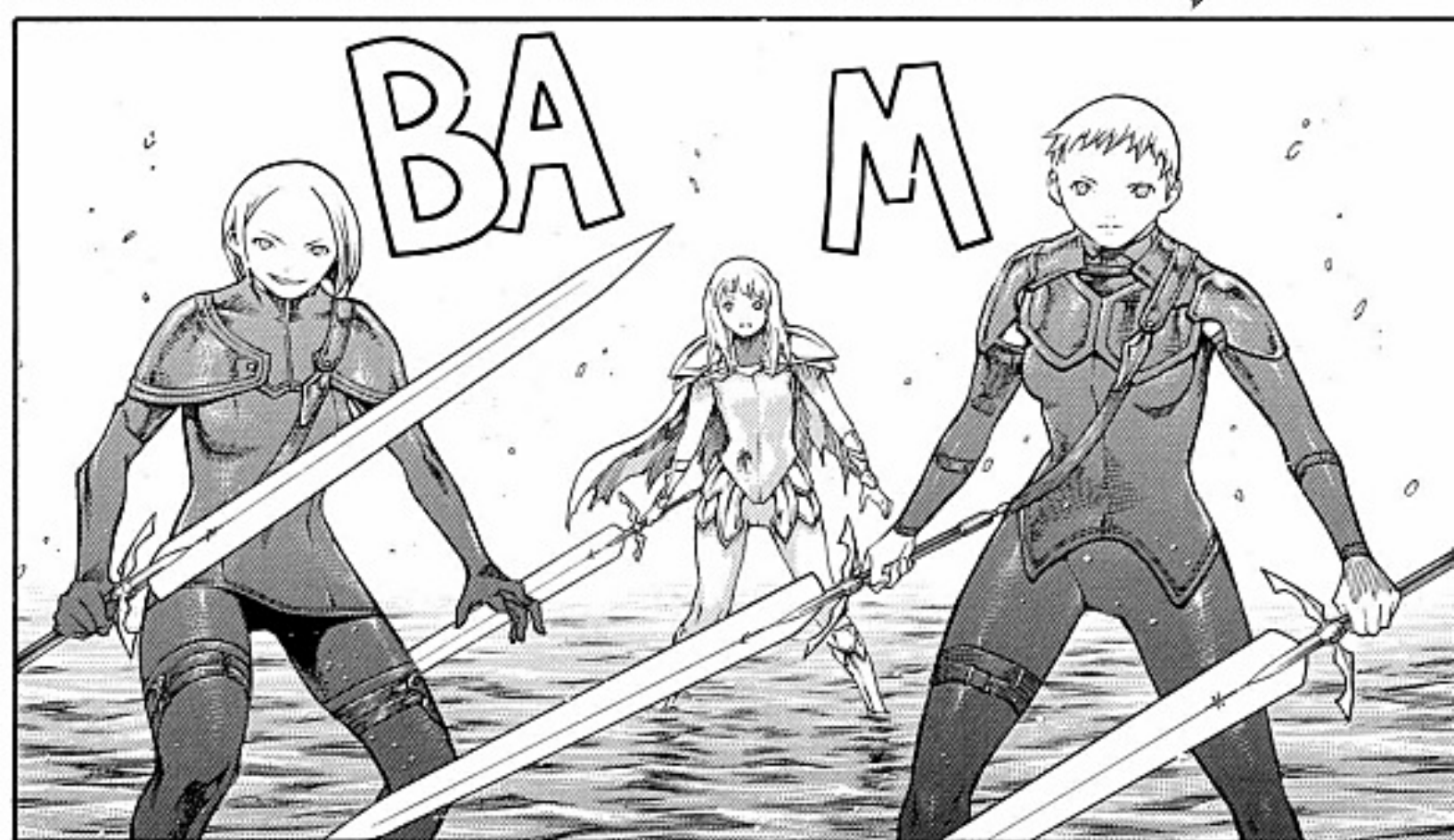
SHE'S
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS
SO
WILL-
FUL.

LOOKS
LIKE
WE'RE
DEFYING
YOUR
ORDERS,
MIRIA.

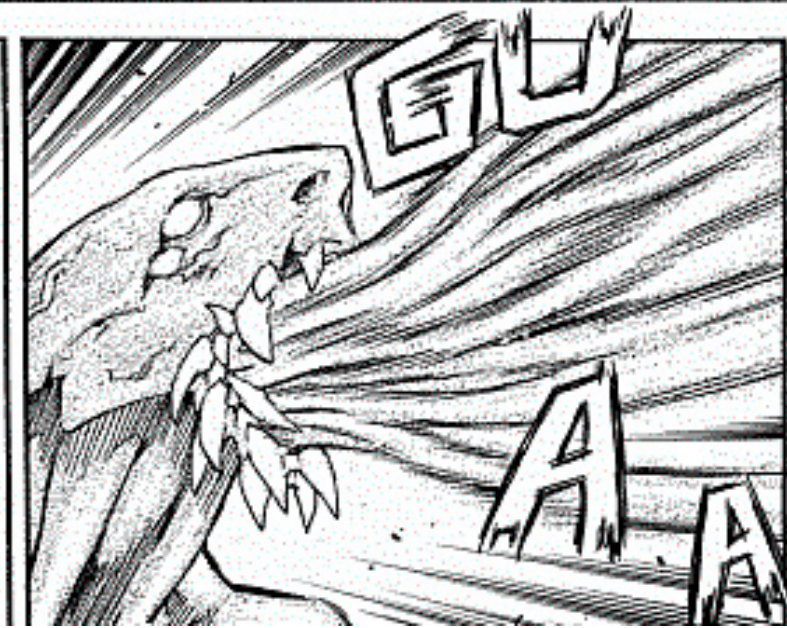
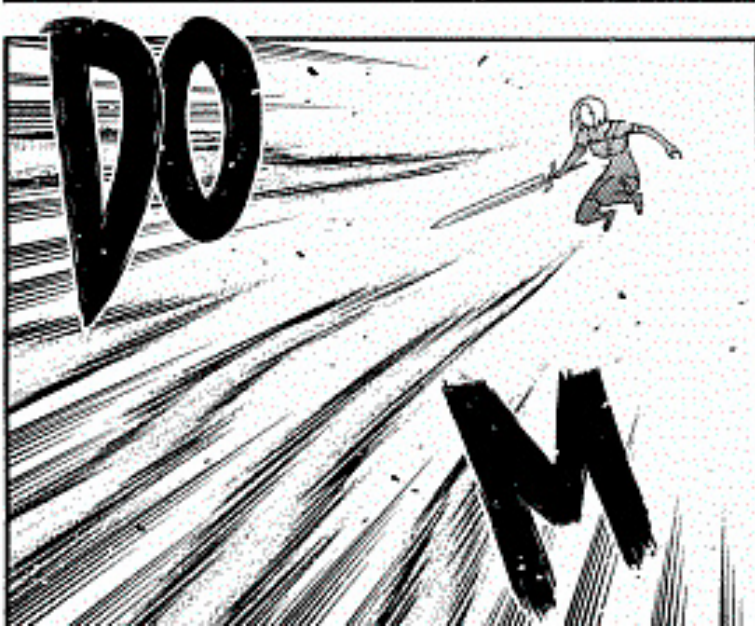
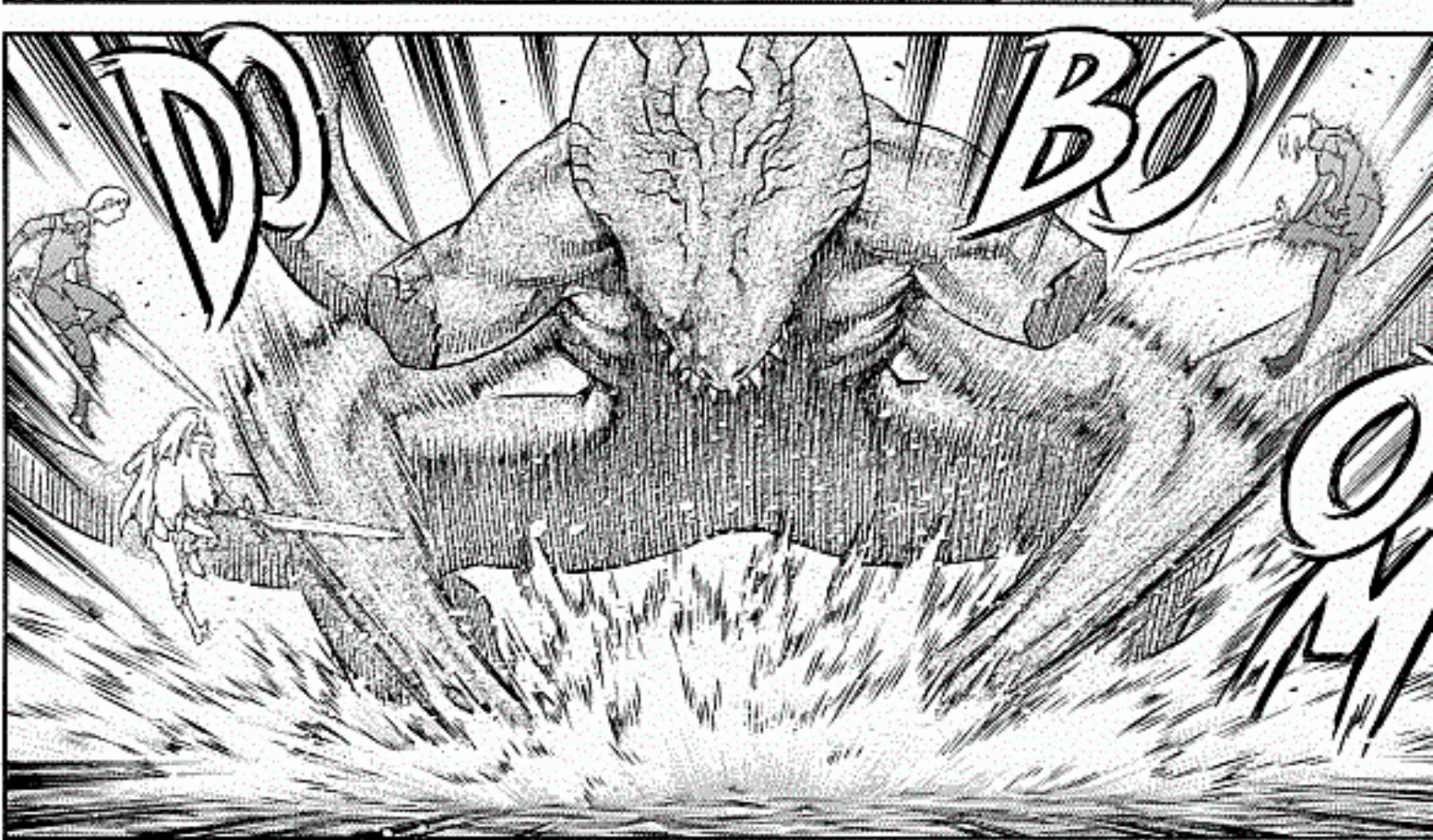
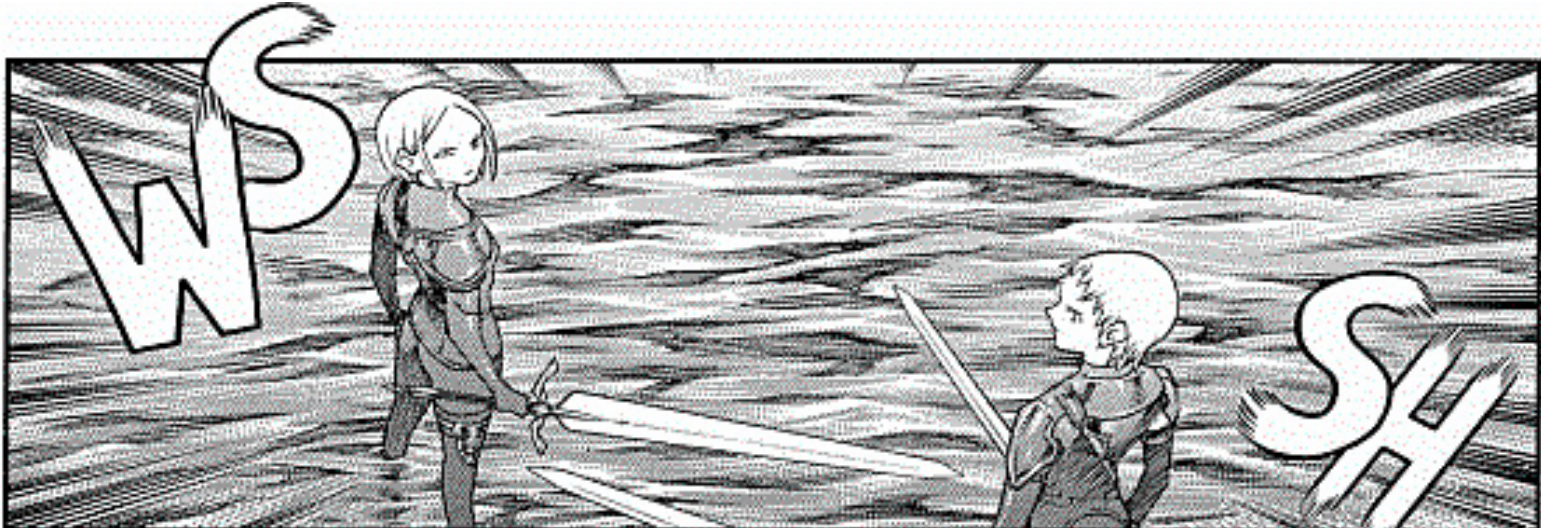
WELL,
THAT'S
THE WAY
IT
GOES.

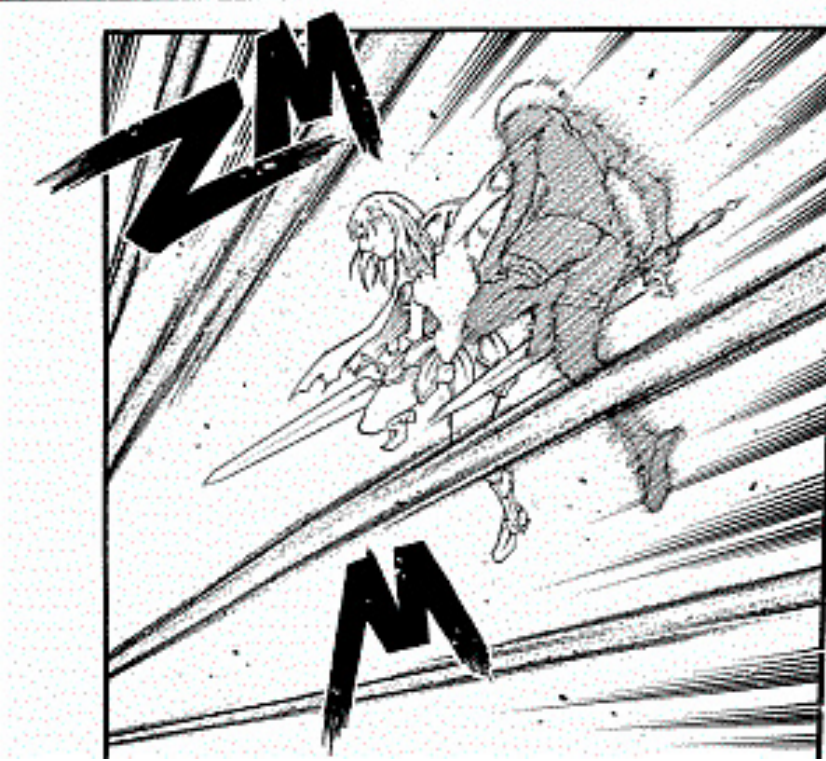
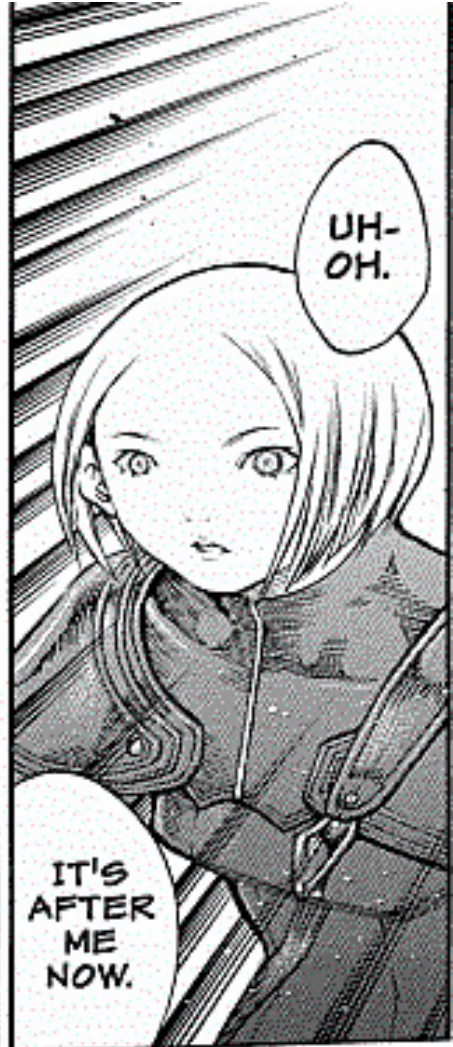
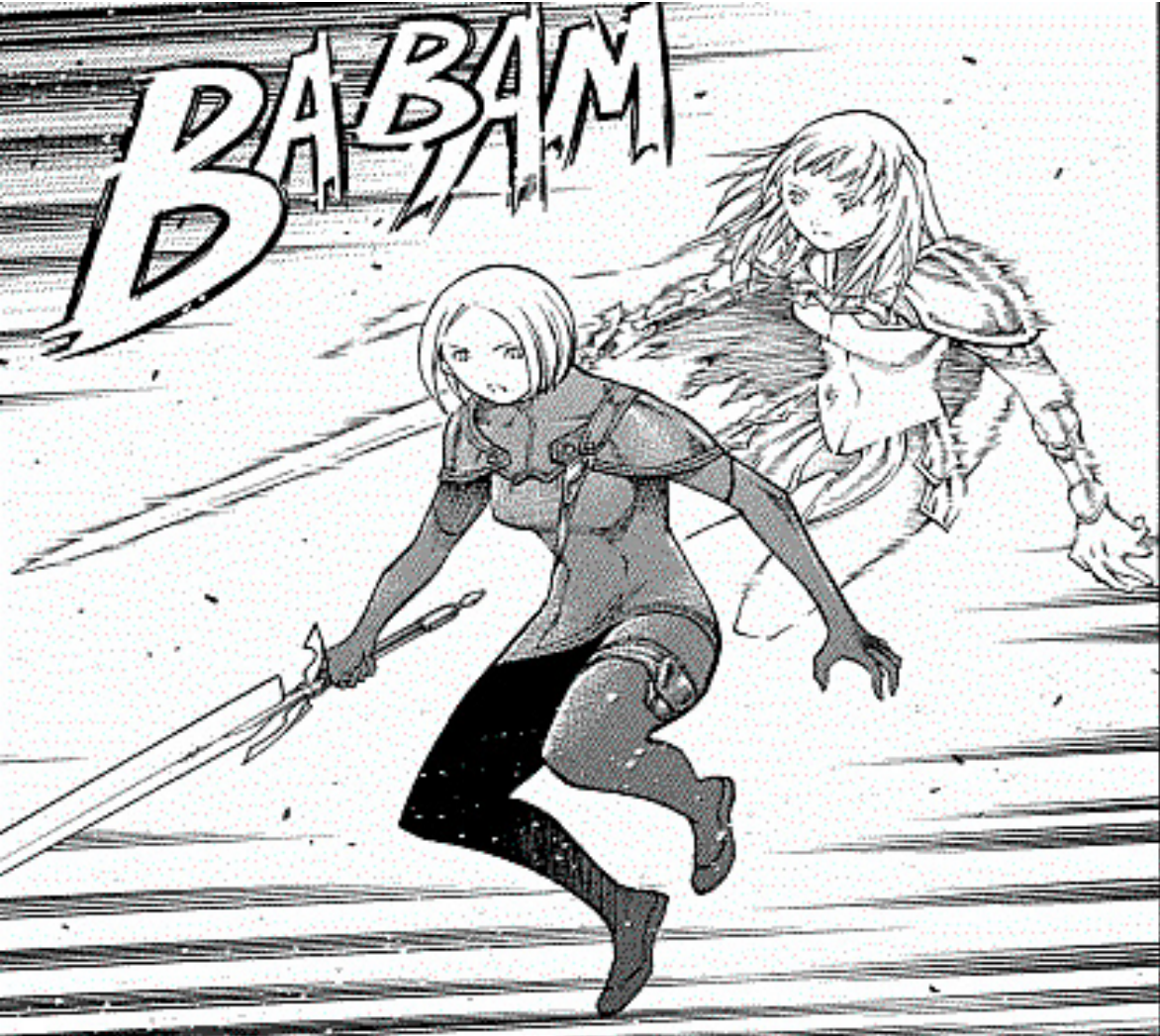


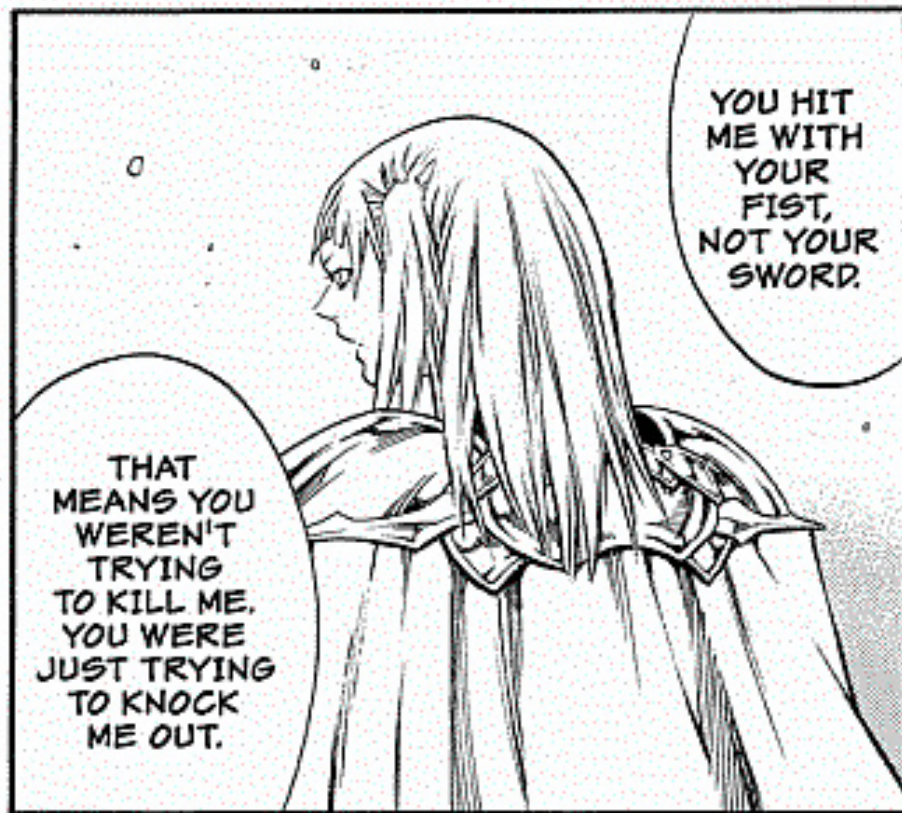
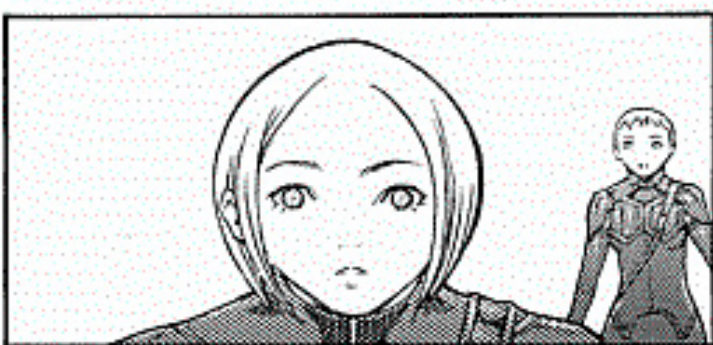
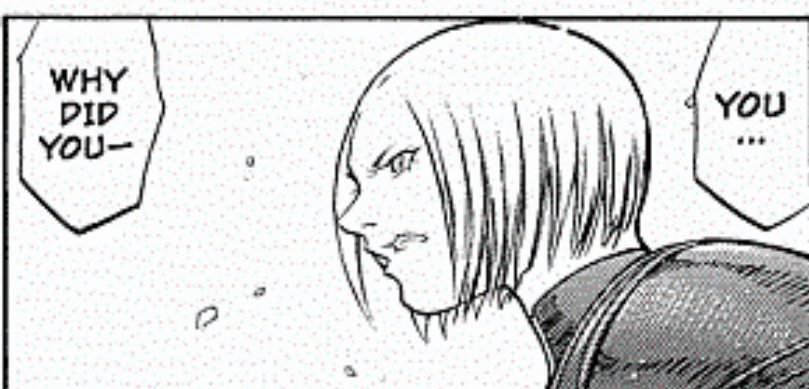
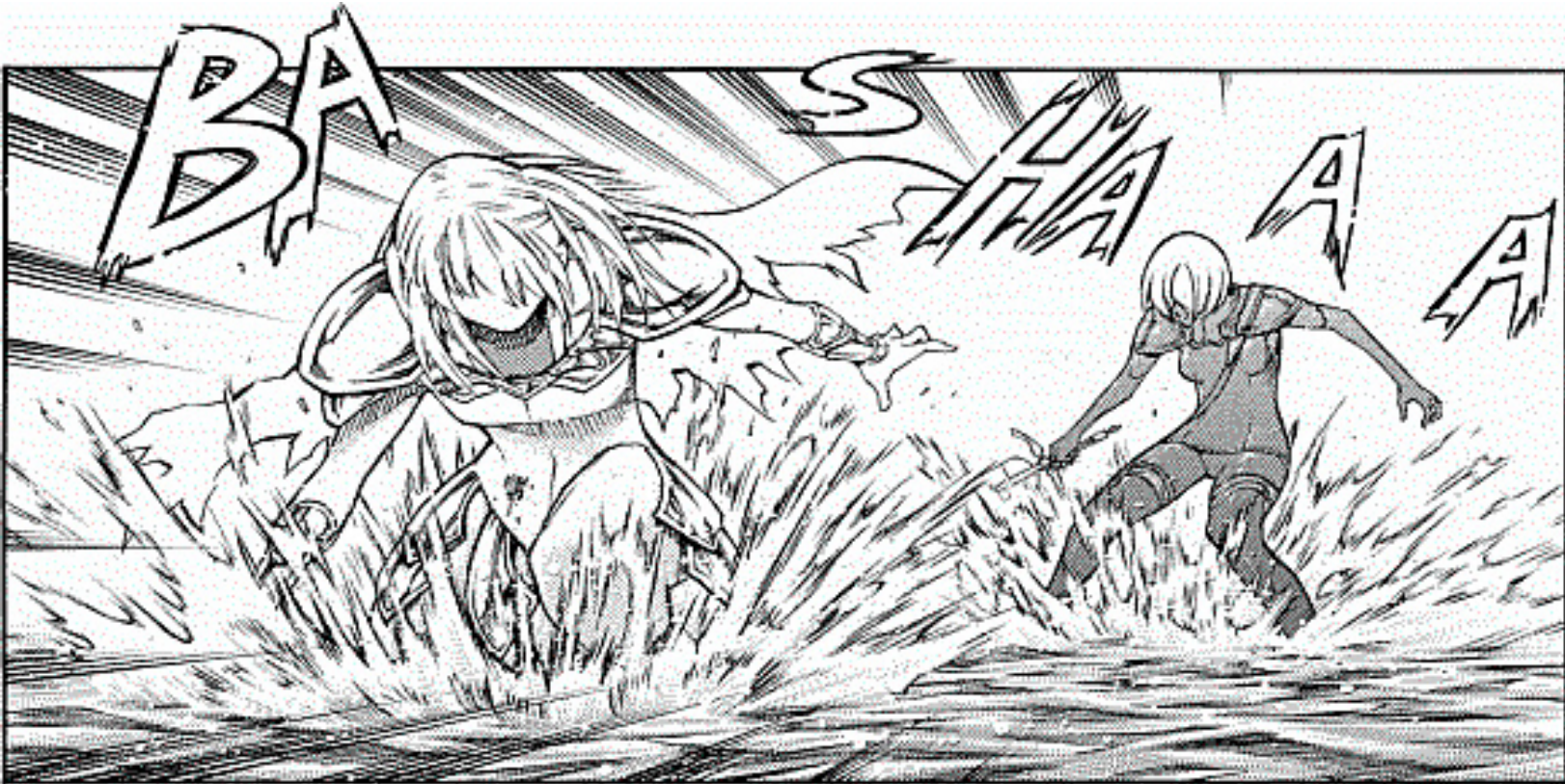


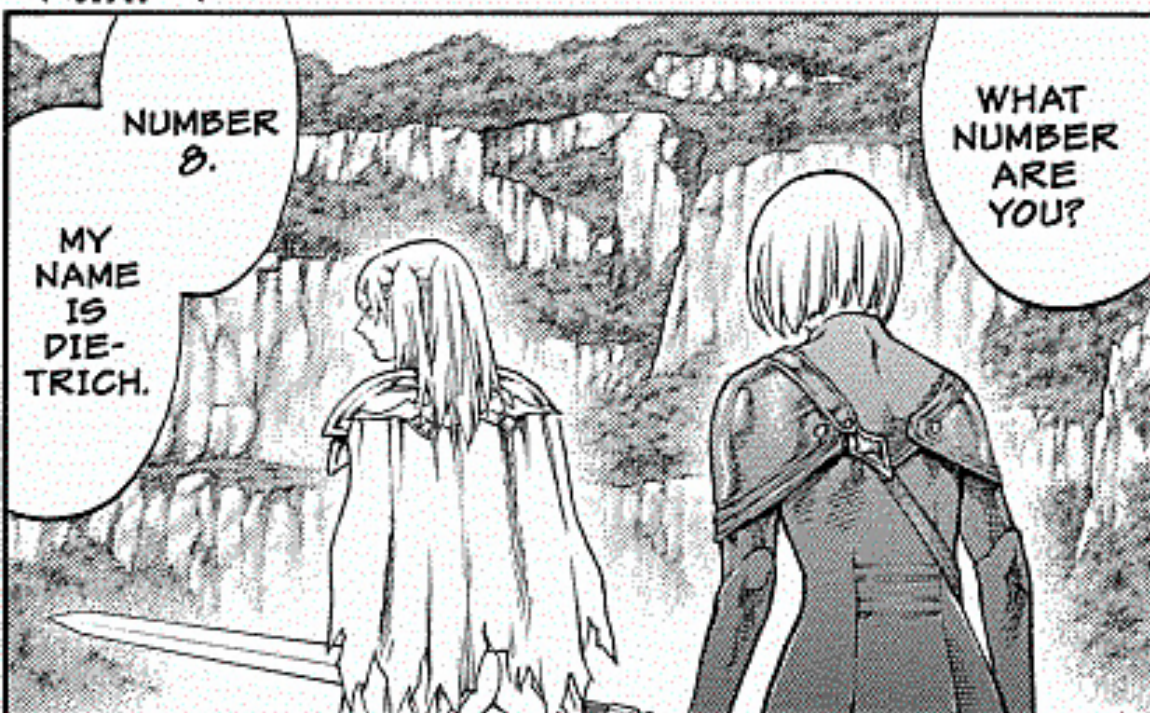








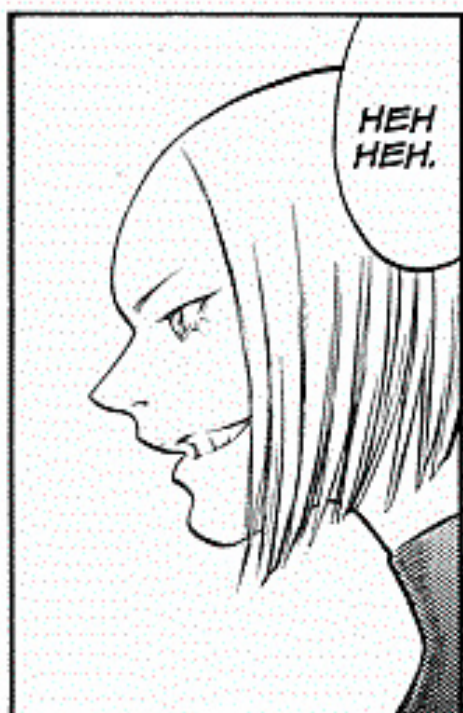




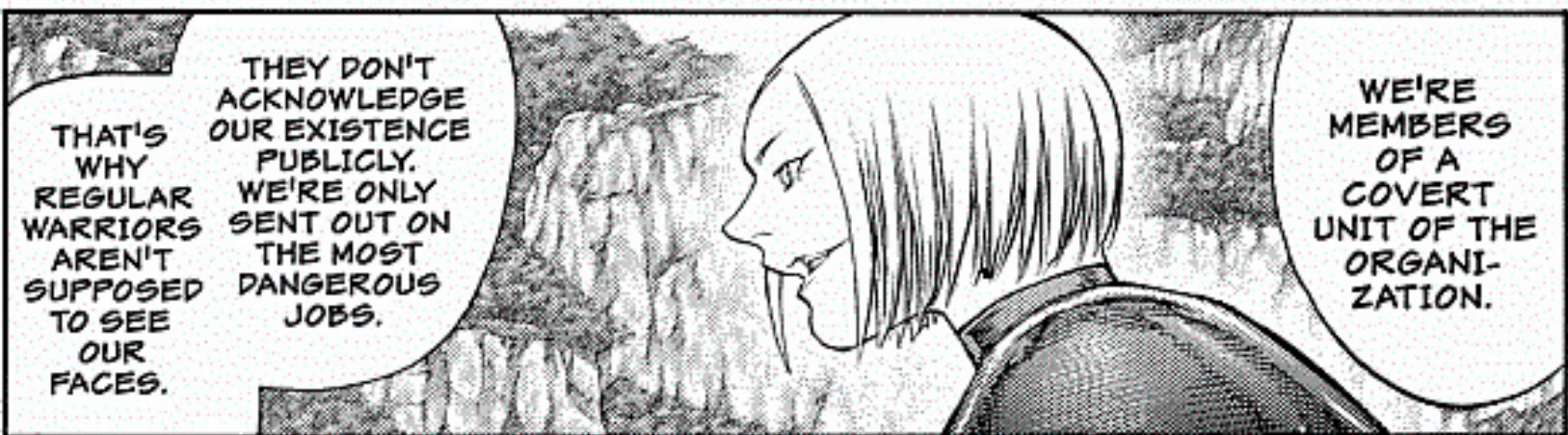
NUMBER 8.

MY NAME IS DIE-TRICH.

WHAT NUMBER ARE YOU?



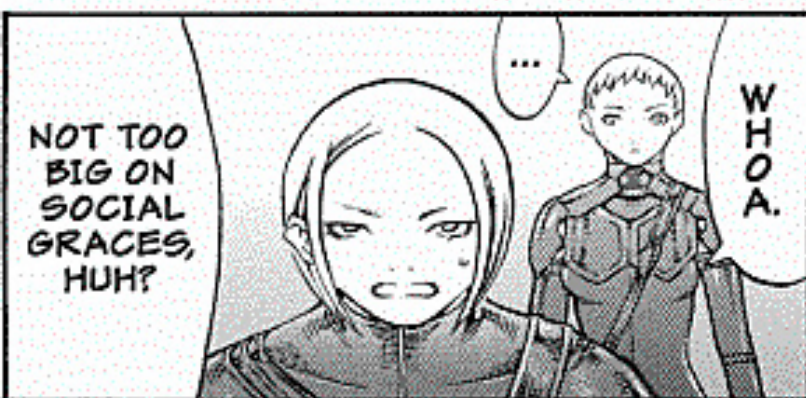
HEH HEH.



THEY DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE OUR EXISTENCE PUBLICLY. WE'RE ONLY SENT OUT ON THE MOST DANGEROUS JOBS.

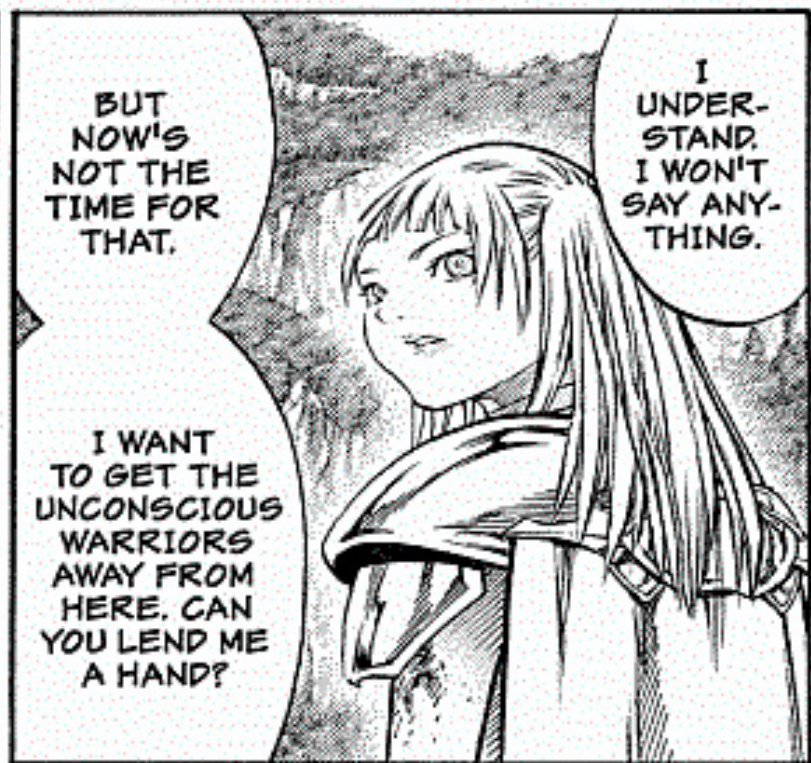
THAT'S WHY REGULAR WARRIORS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE OUR FACES.

WE'RE MEMBERS OF A COVERT UNIT OF THE ORGANIZATION.



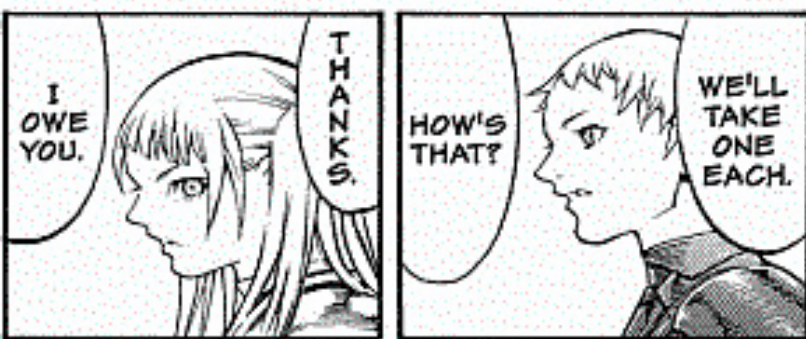
NOT TOO BIG ON SOCIAL GRACES, HUH?

W H O A.



BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT.

I UNDERSTAND. I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.



I OWE YOU.

T H A N K S.

HOW'S THAT?

WE'LL TAKE ONE EACH.

I WANT TO GET THE UNCONSCIOUS WARRIORS AWAY FROM HERE. CAN YOU LEND ME A HAND?





UP
WE
GO.



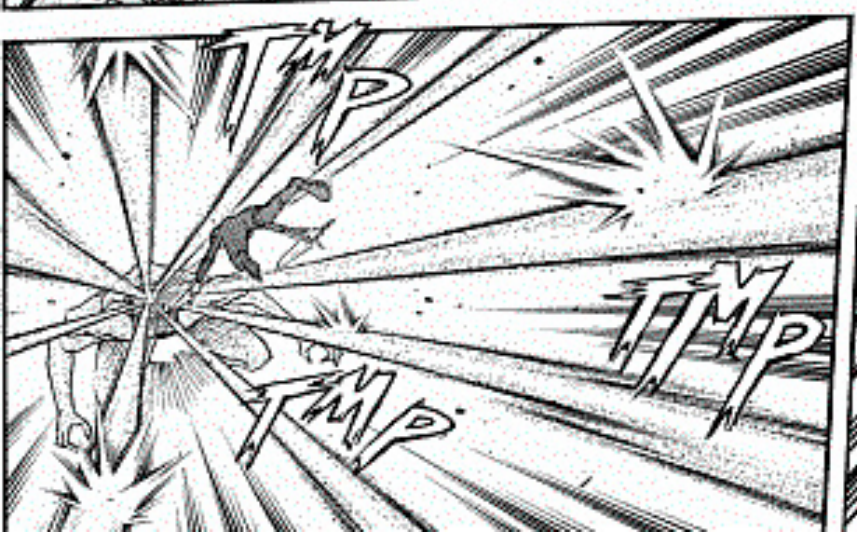
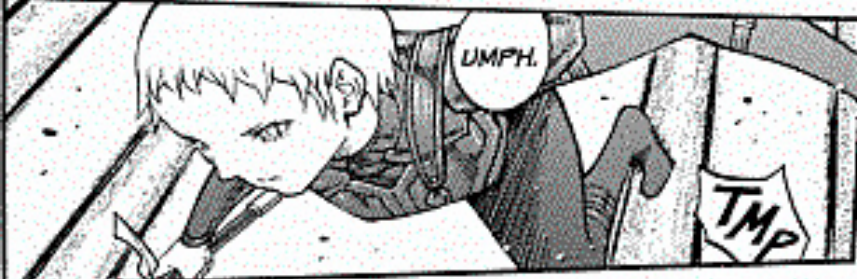
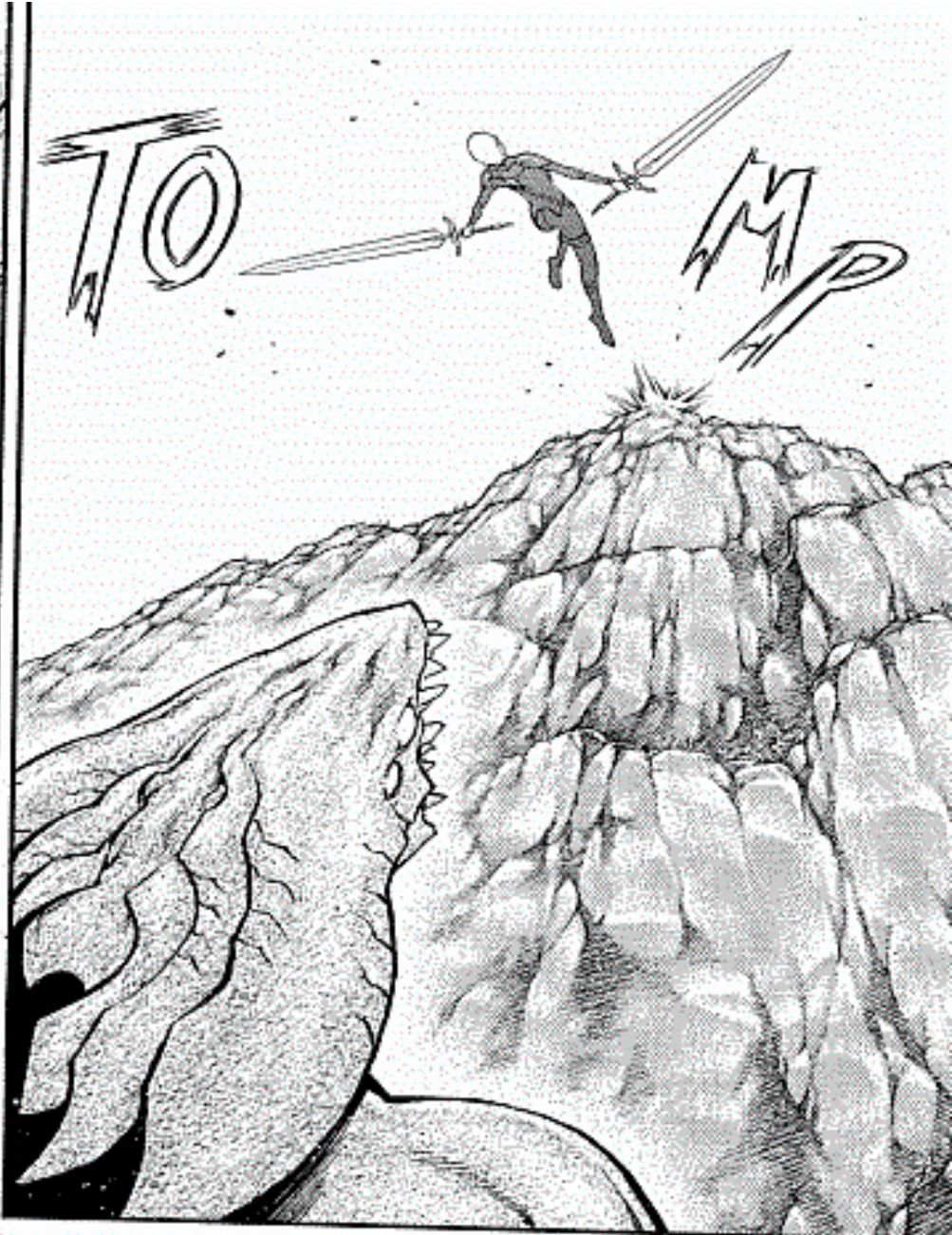
SHE'LL
BE
SAFE
HERE.

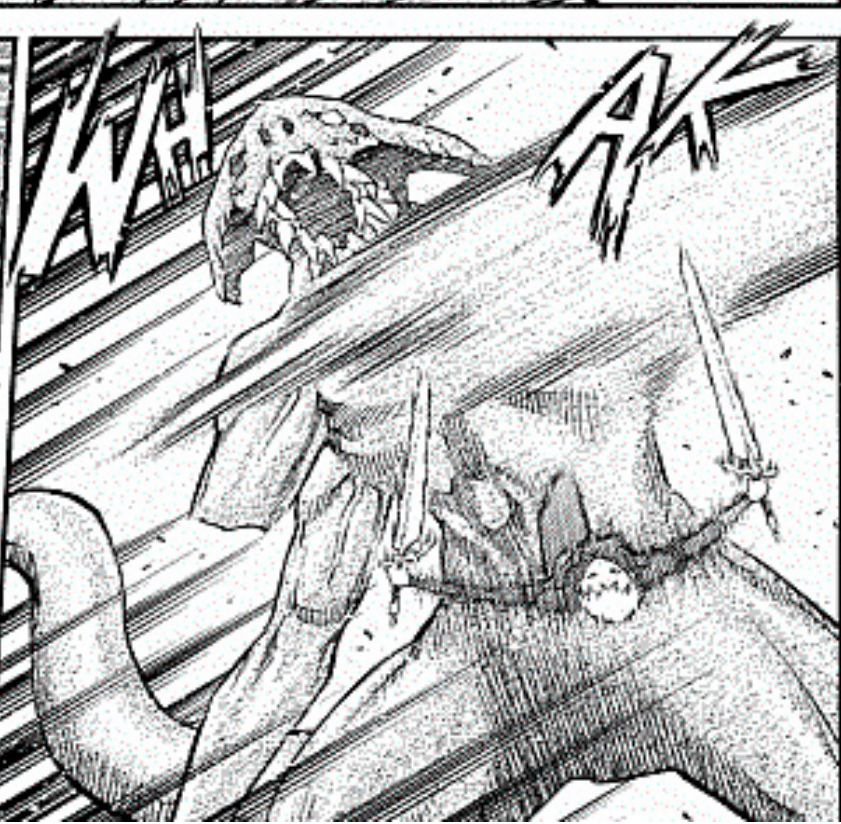
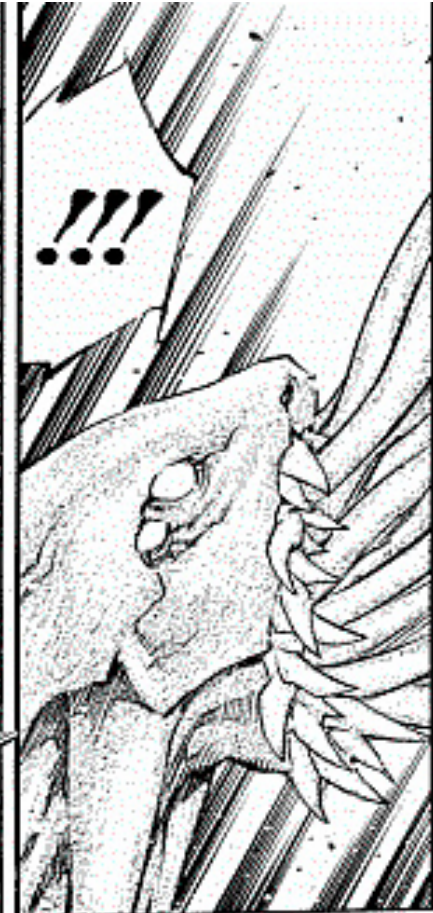
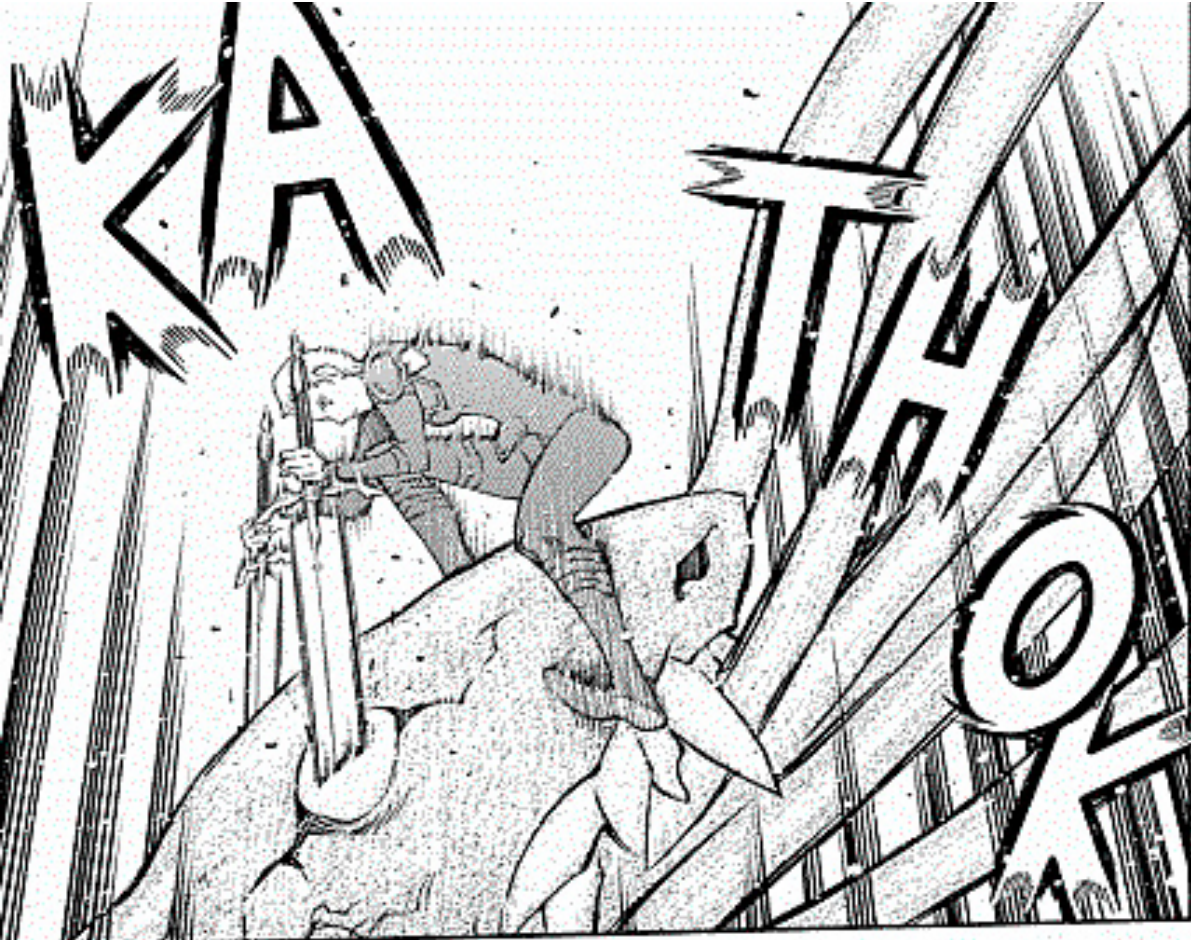
OKAY.

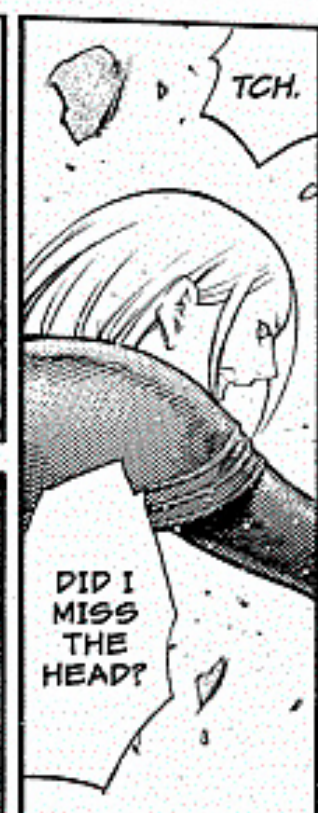
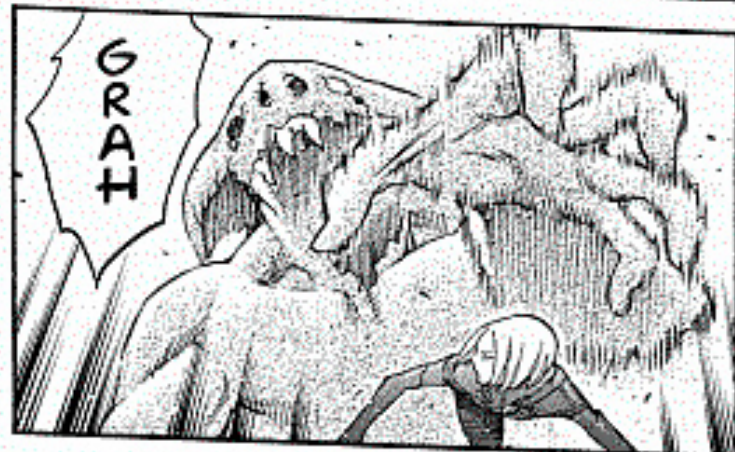


NOW
THEN
...











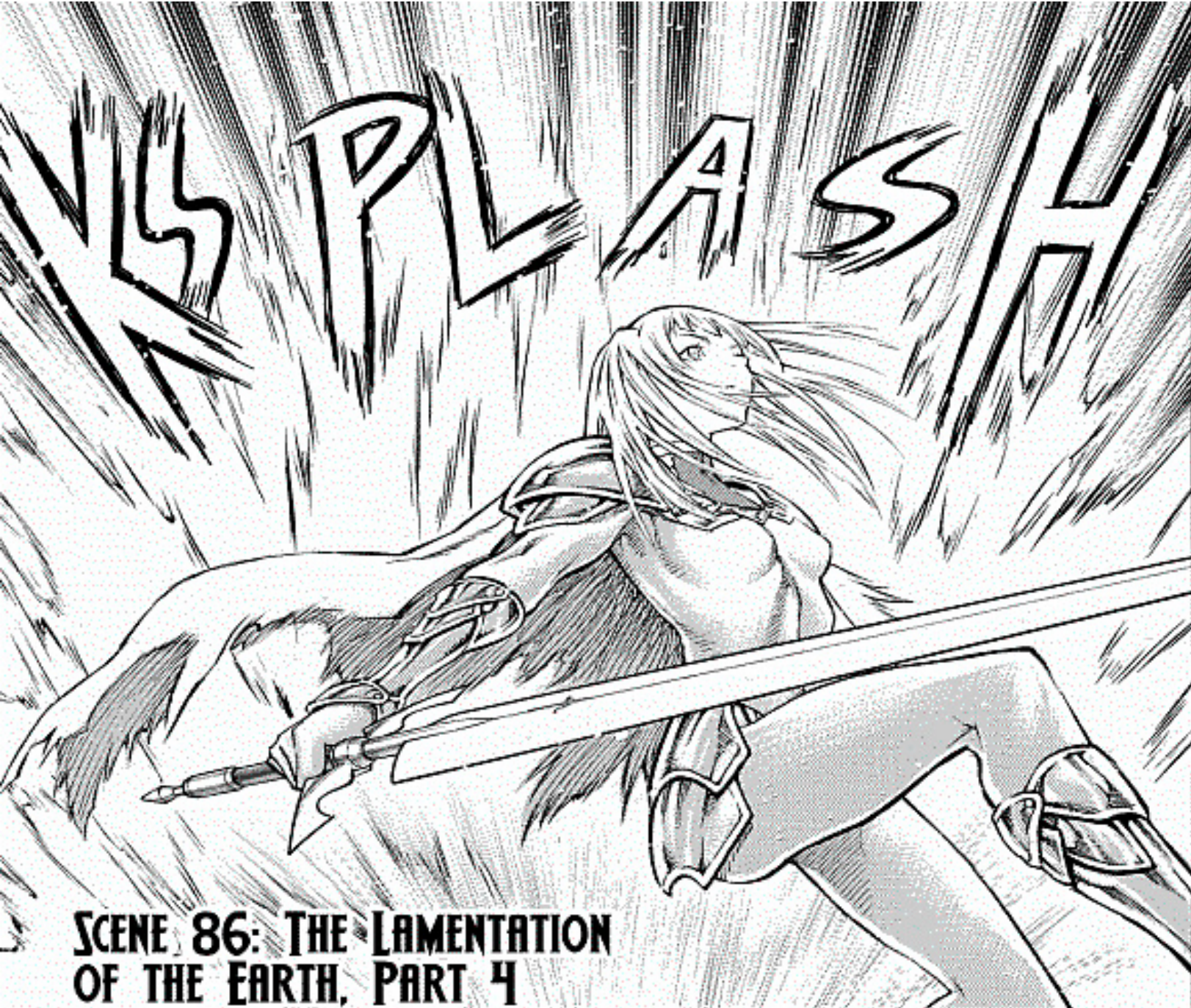




THOUGH
NOW YOU
ARE STAINED
WITH BLOOD
AND
DARKNESS,
YOU WERE
ONCE A
FELLOW
WARRIOR.

WITH
THIS
SINGLE
BLOW
I ATONE
FOR AND
HONOR A
FORMER
COMRADE.

クレイモア
Claymore

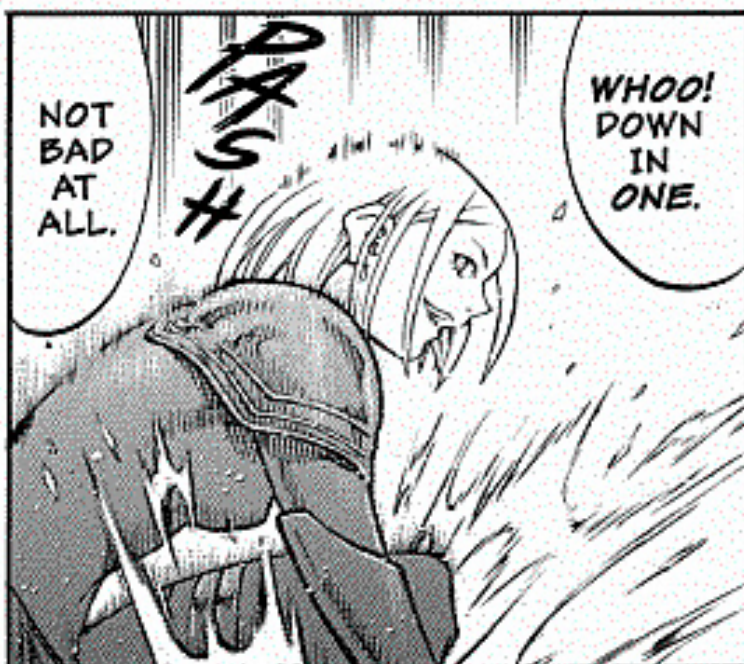


**SCENE 86: THE LAMENTATION
OF THE EARTH, PART 4**



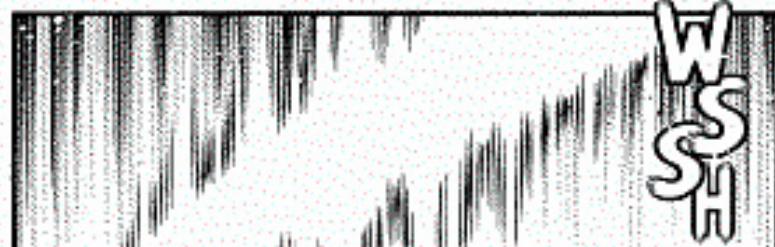
SO
SHE DOES
HAVE
EXPER-
IENCE
FIGHTING
AWAKENED
ONES...

SHE COM-
PENSATED
FOR HER
SMALL SIZE
AND WEIGHT
BY STRIKING
FROM A GREAT
HEIGHT SO
SHE COULD
CLEAVE IT
IN TWO.



NOT
BAD
AT
ALL.

WHOO!
DOWN
IN
ONE.

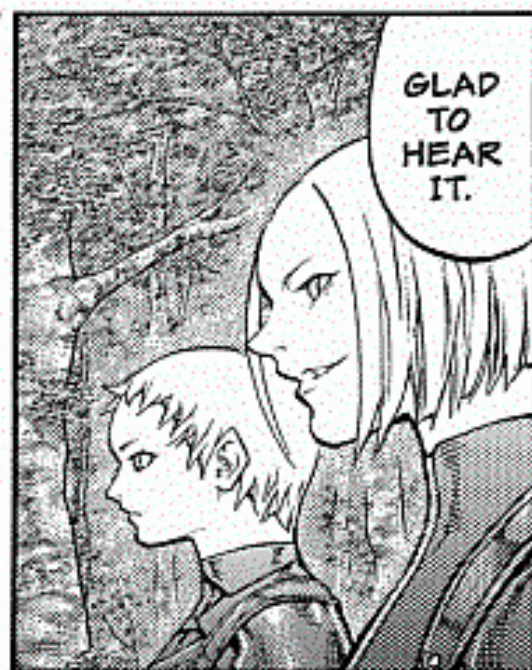
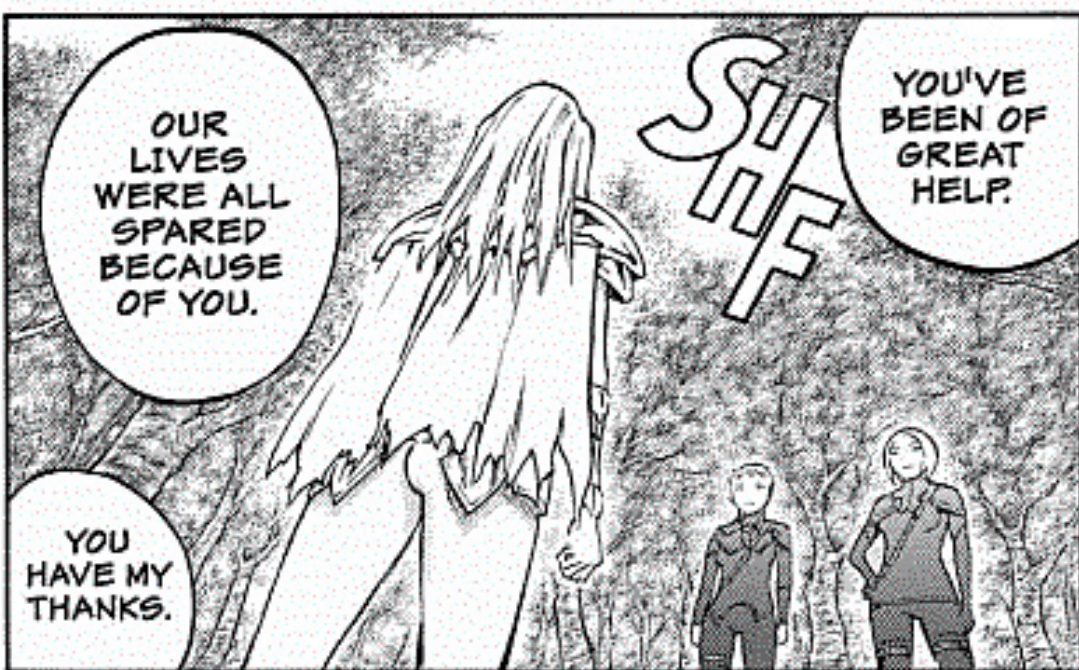
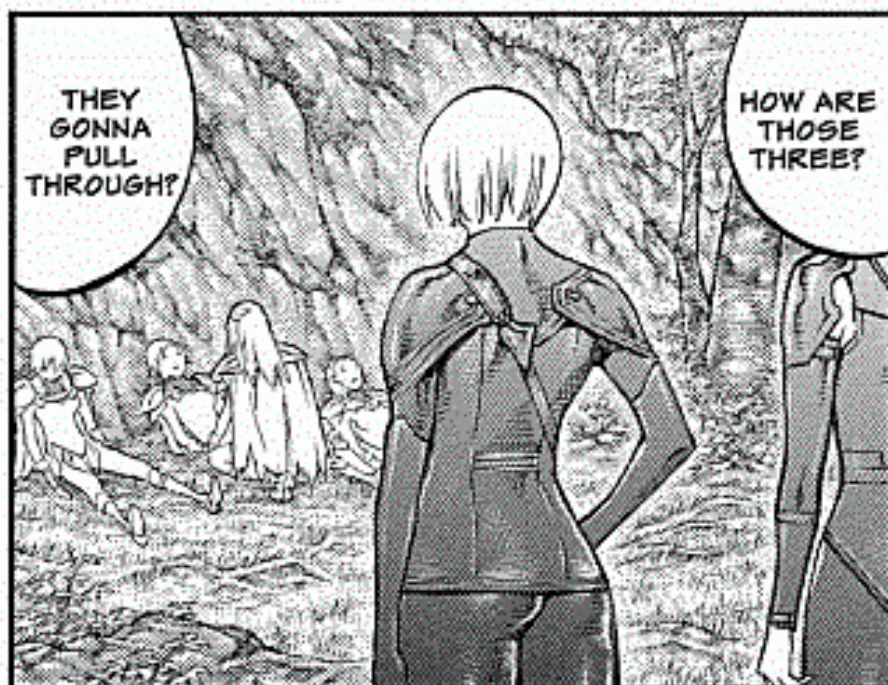
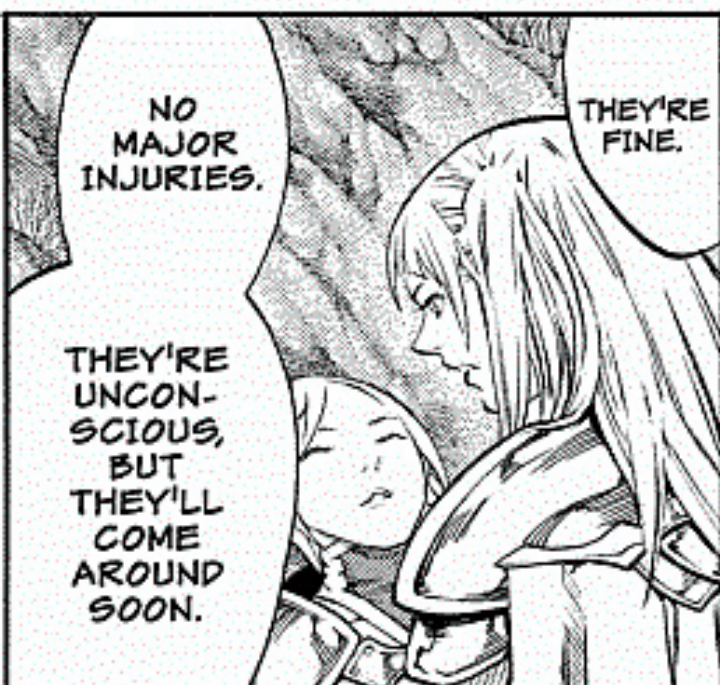
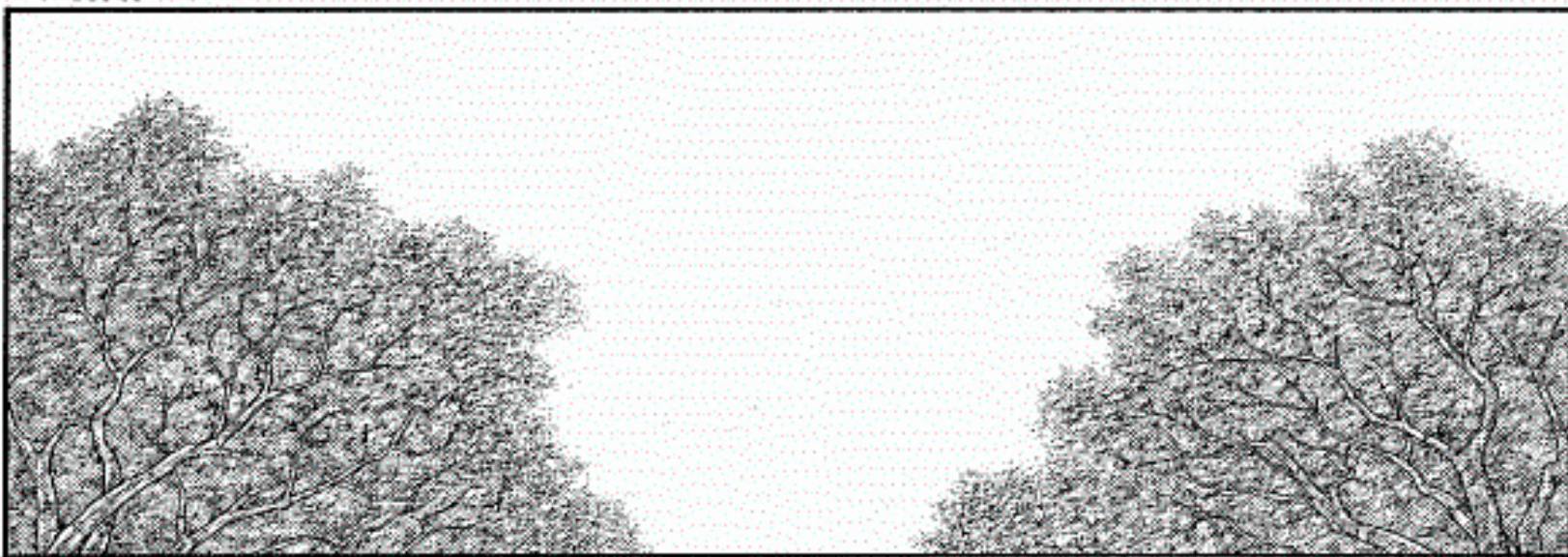


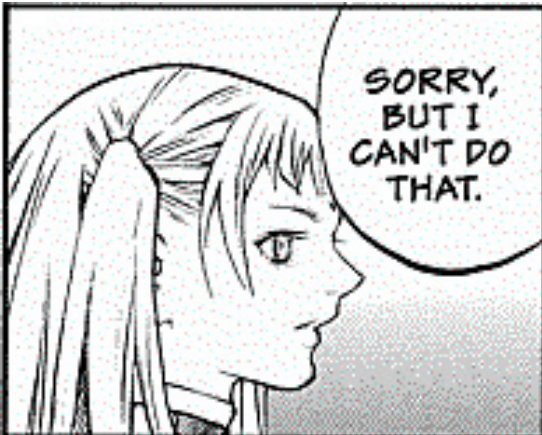
WSH

HAHH
...

GA
SHAK

**SCENE 86: THE LAMENTATION
OF THE EARTH, PART 4**

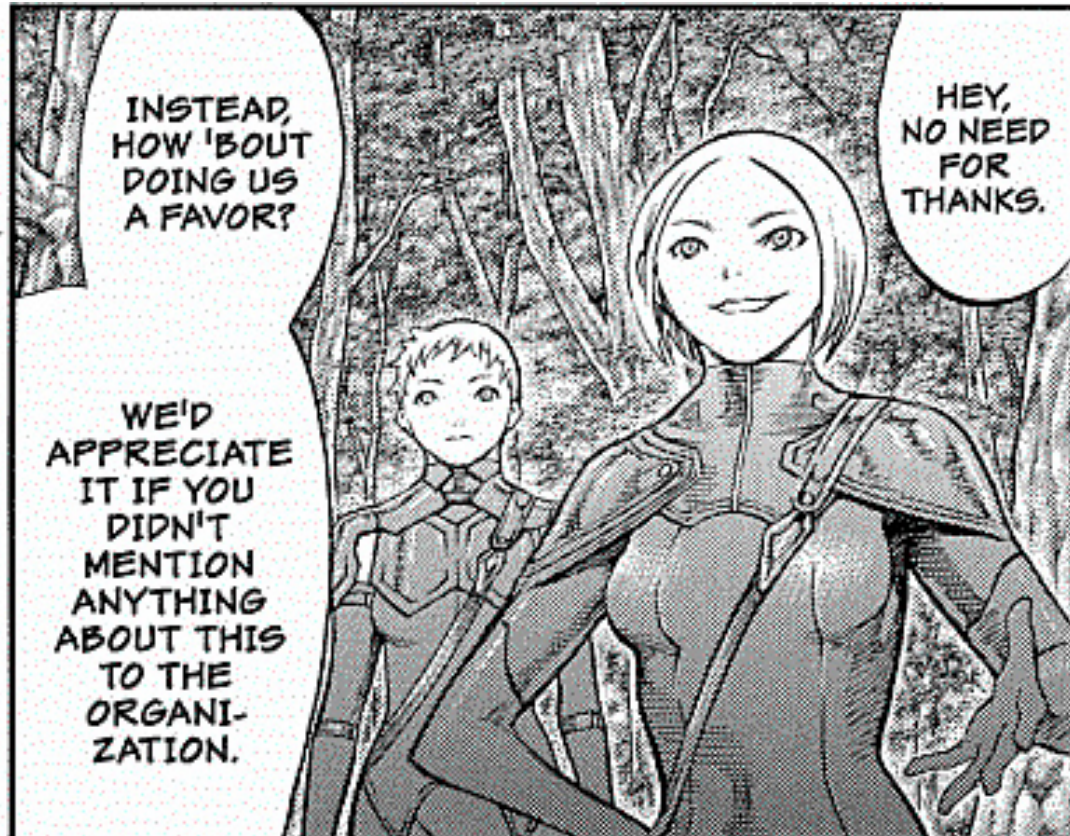




SORRY,
BUT I
CAN'T DO
THAT.



HUH?



INSTEAD,
HOW 'BOUT
DOING US
A FAVOR?

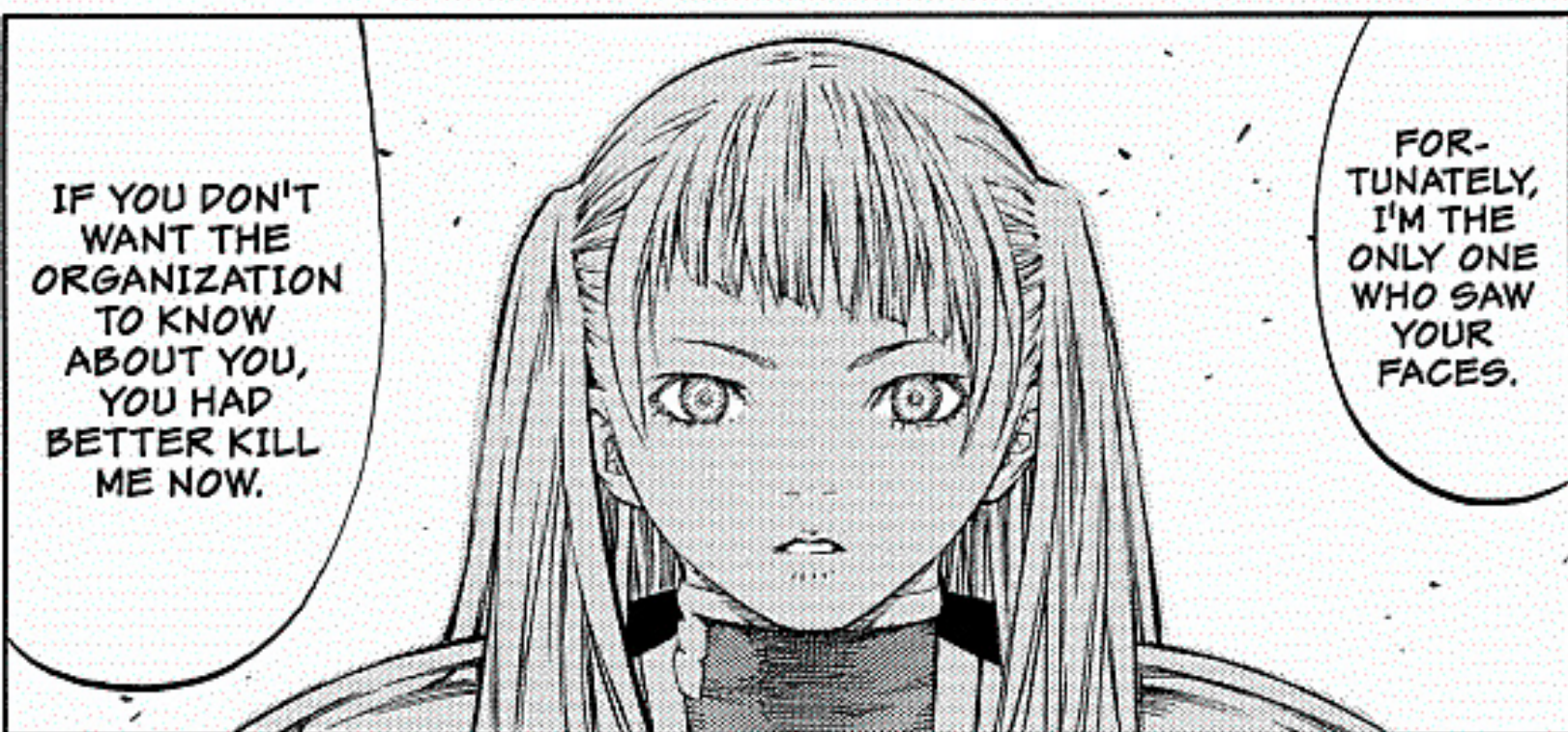
WE'D
APPRECIATE
IT IF YOU
DIDN'T
MENTION
ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS
TO THE
ORGANI-
ZATION.

HEY,
NO NEED
FOR
THANKS.



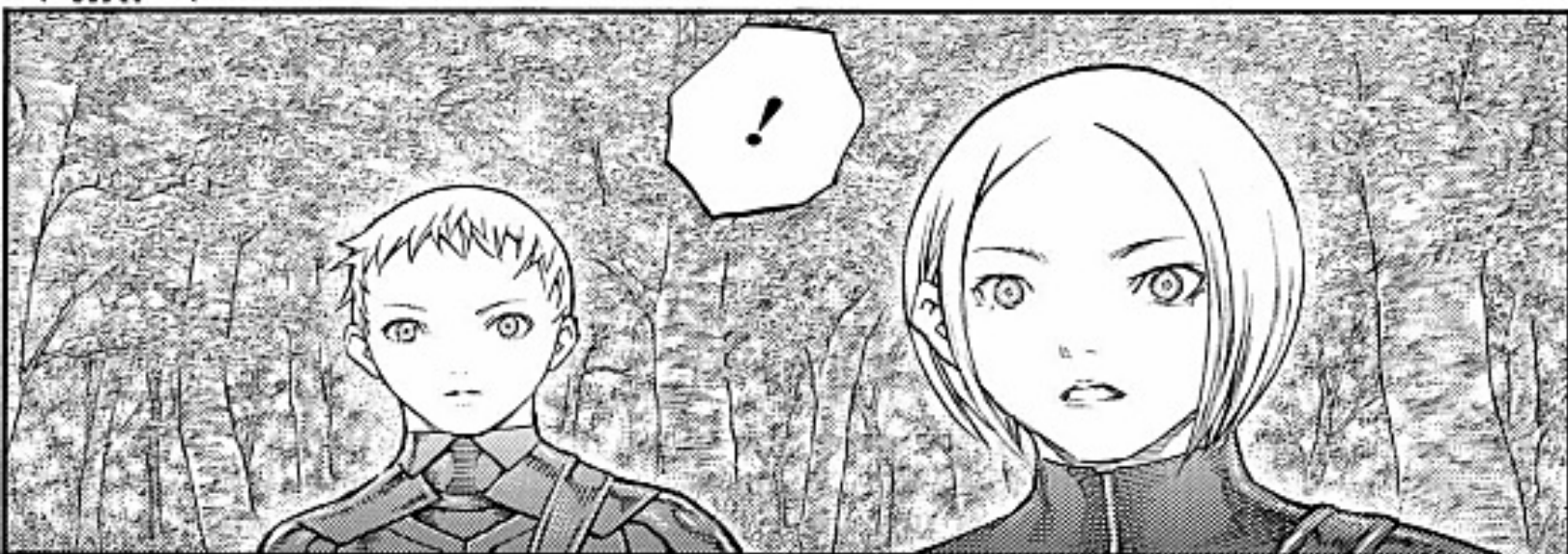
IF THEY
ASK ME,
I HAVE TO
ANSWER
HONESTLY.

I SWORE
AN OATH
TO THE
ORGANIZATION
THAT I WOULD
NEVER LIE
TO THEM.



IF YOU DON'T
WANT THE
ORGANIZATION
TO KNOW
ABOUT YOU,
YOU HAD
BETTER KILL
ME NOW.

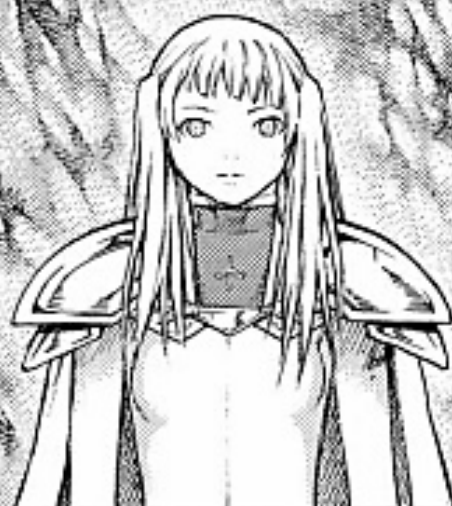
FOR-
TUNATELY,
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
WHO SAW
YOUR
FACES.



YOU DIDN'T
TURN YOUR
SWORD
AGAINST
US AFTER
DEFEATING
THE
AWAKENED
ONE. THAT
ALONE IS
ENOUGH.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

SHAK



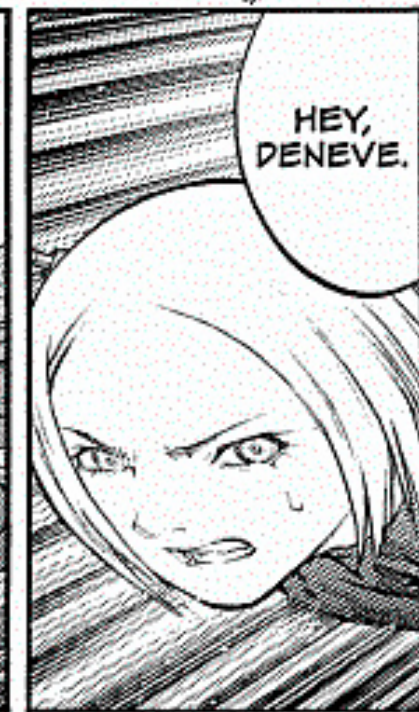
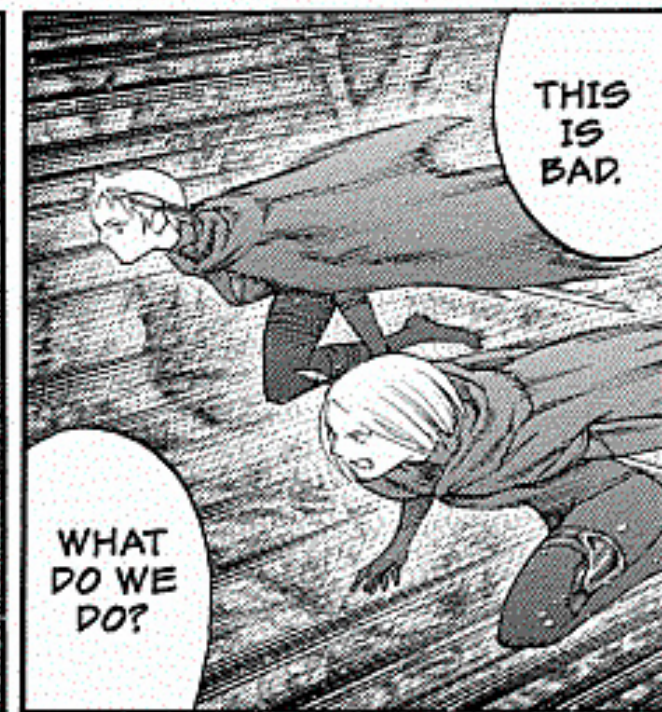
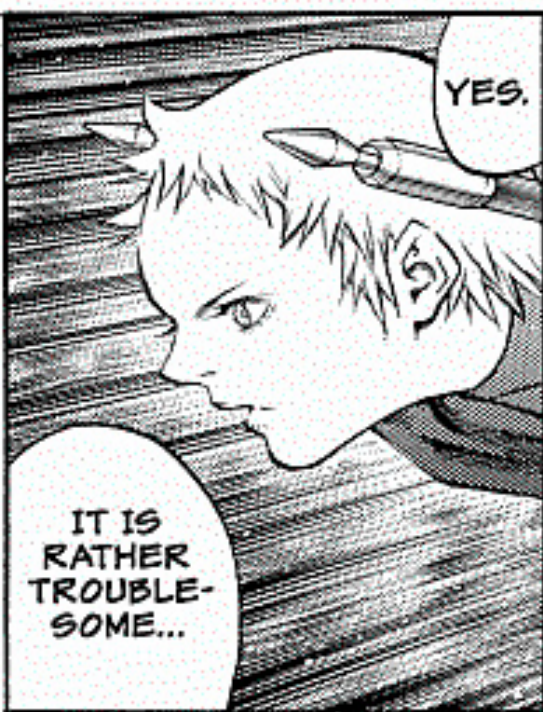
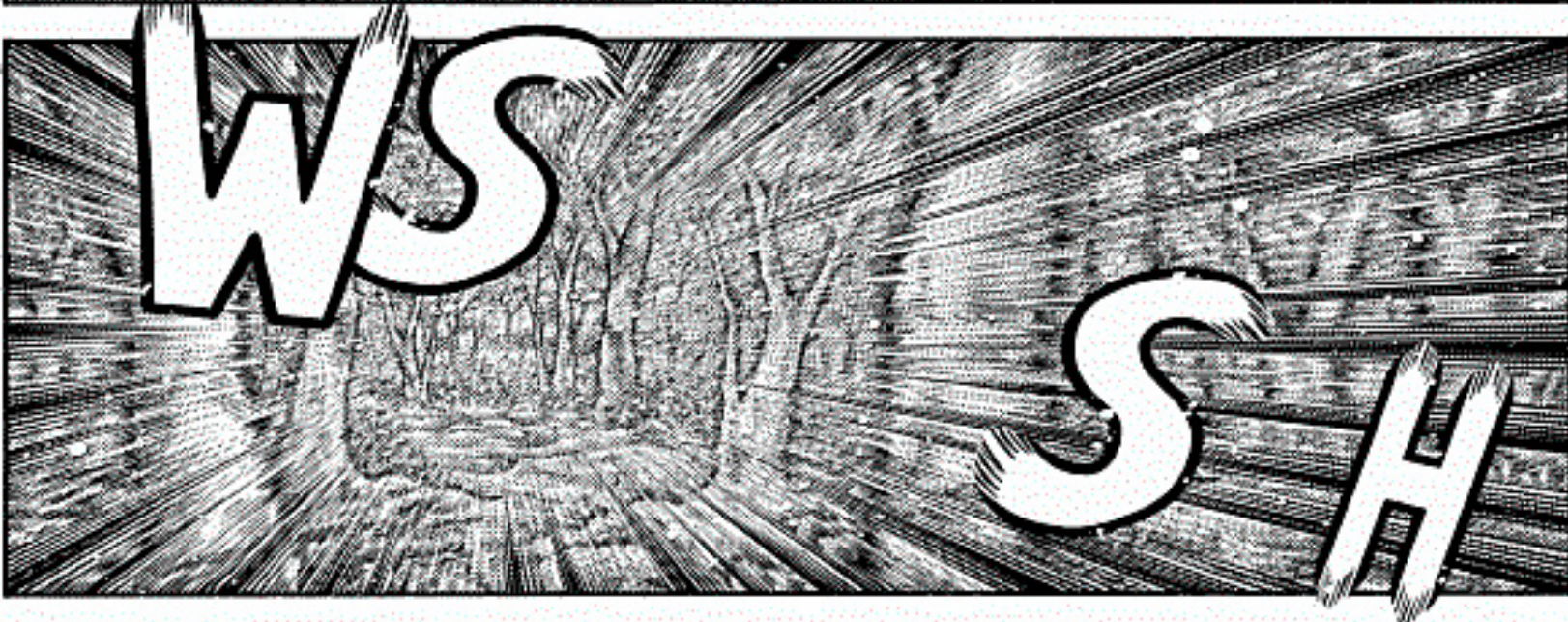
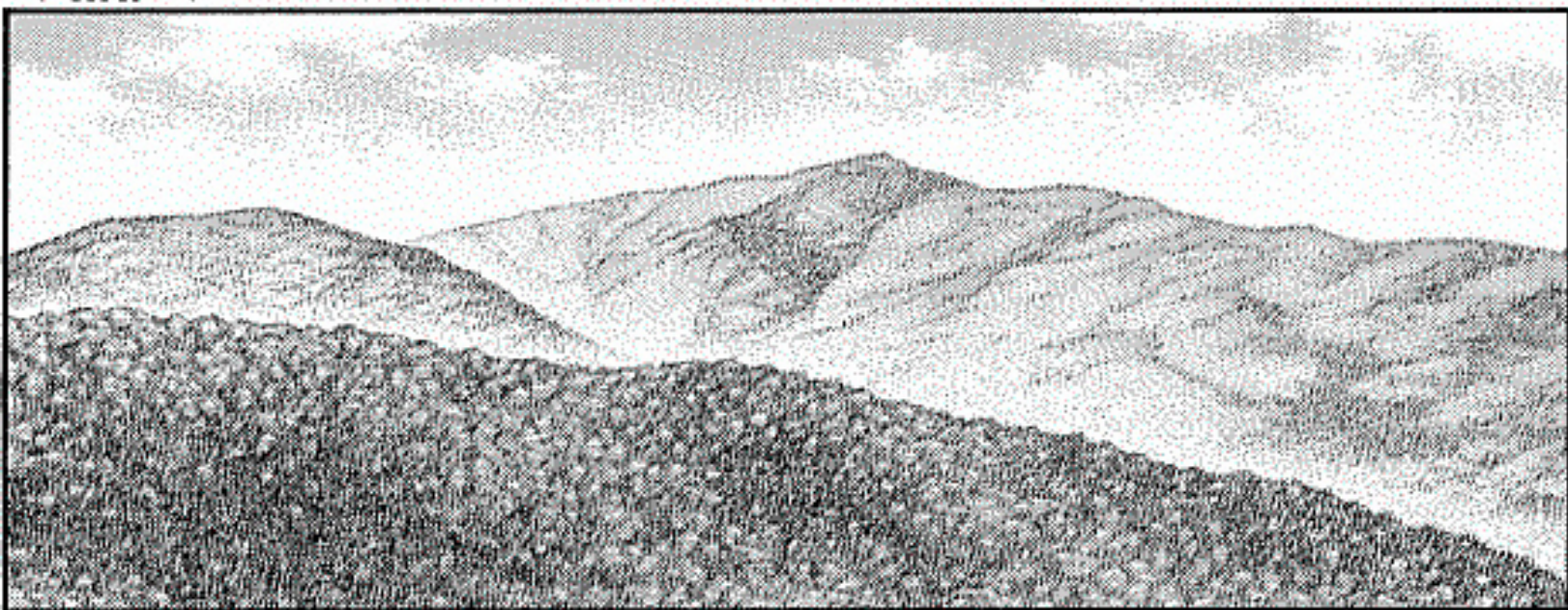
YEAH.

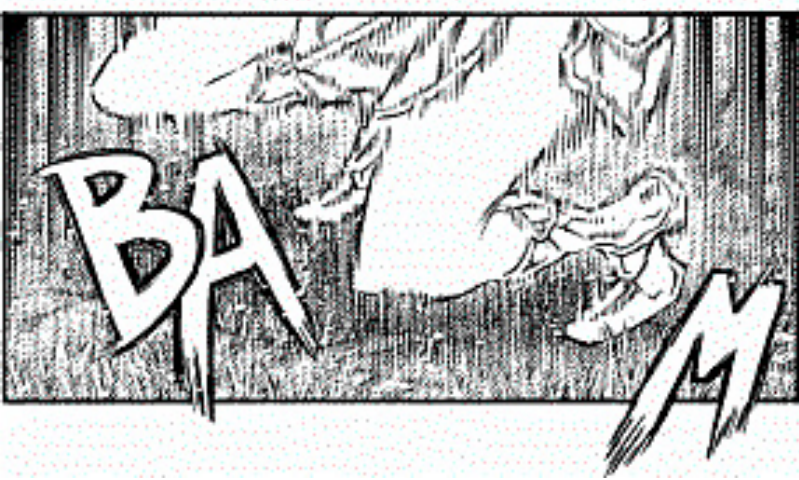
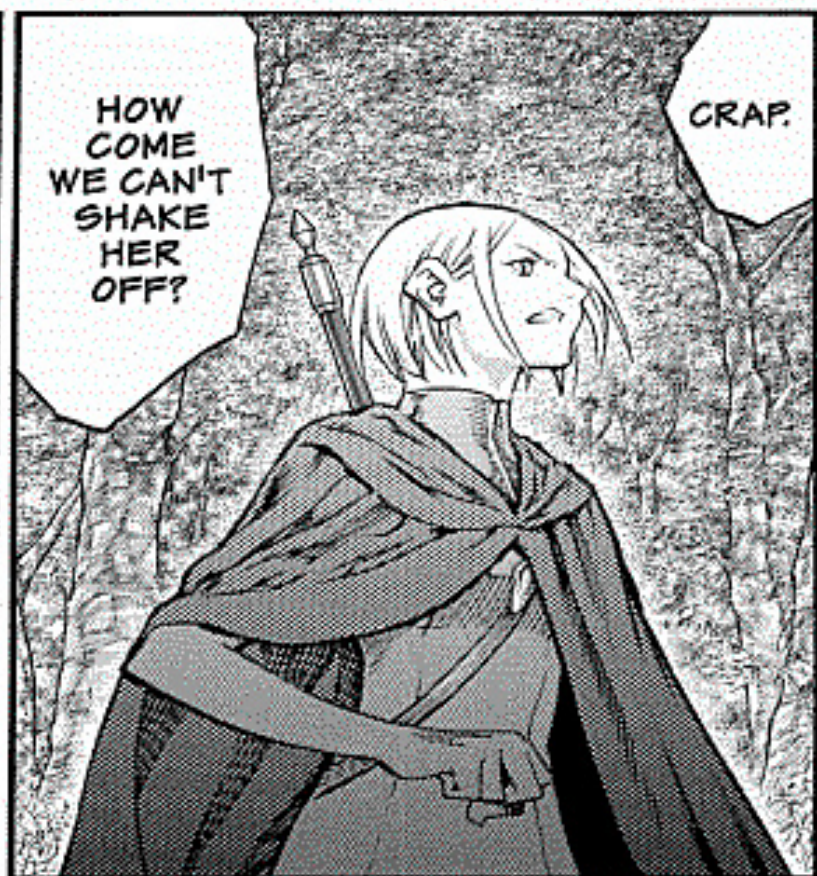
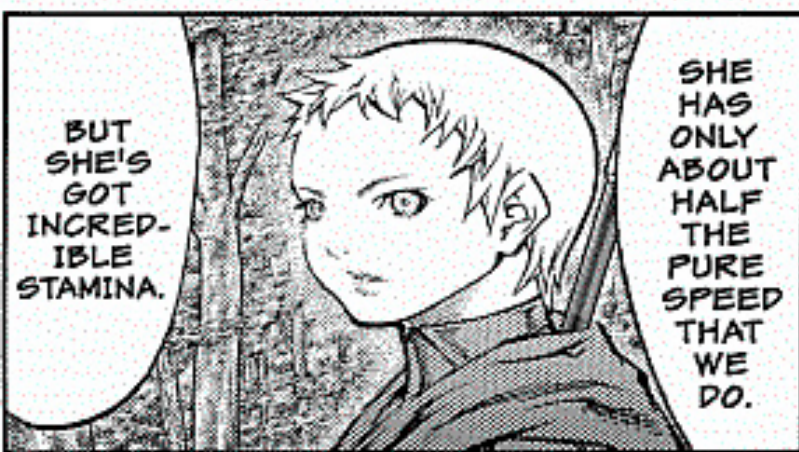
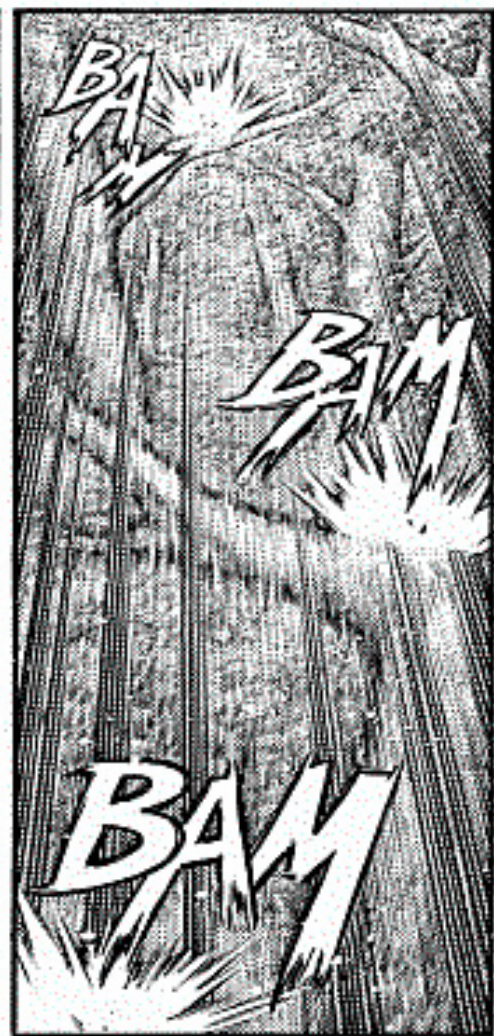
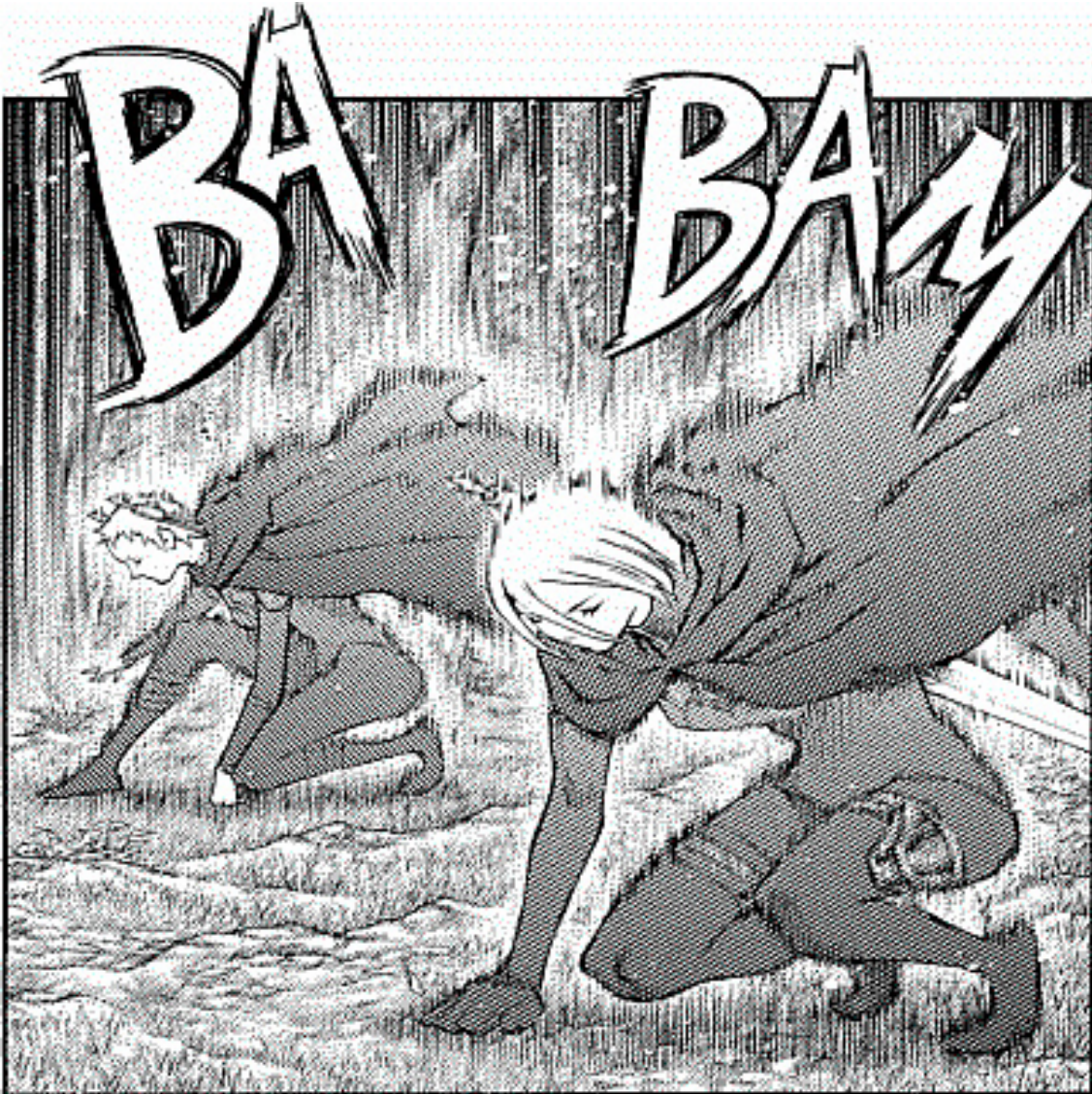
UH
...

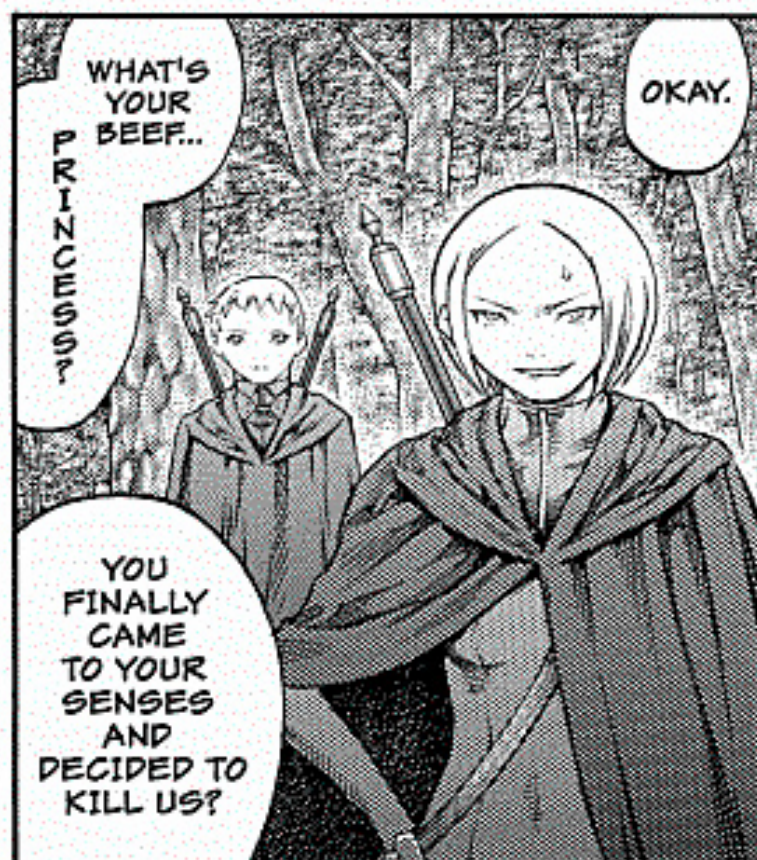
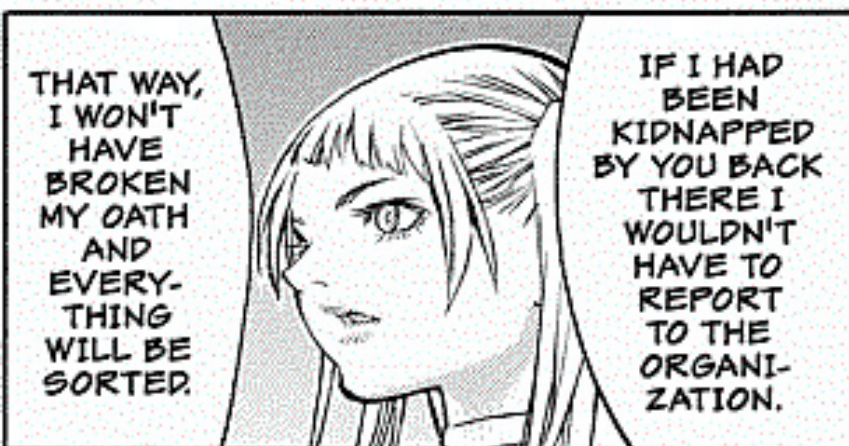
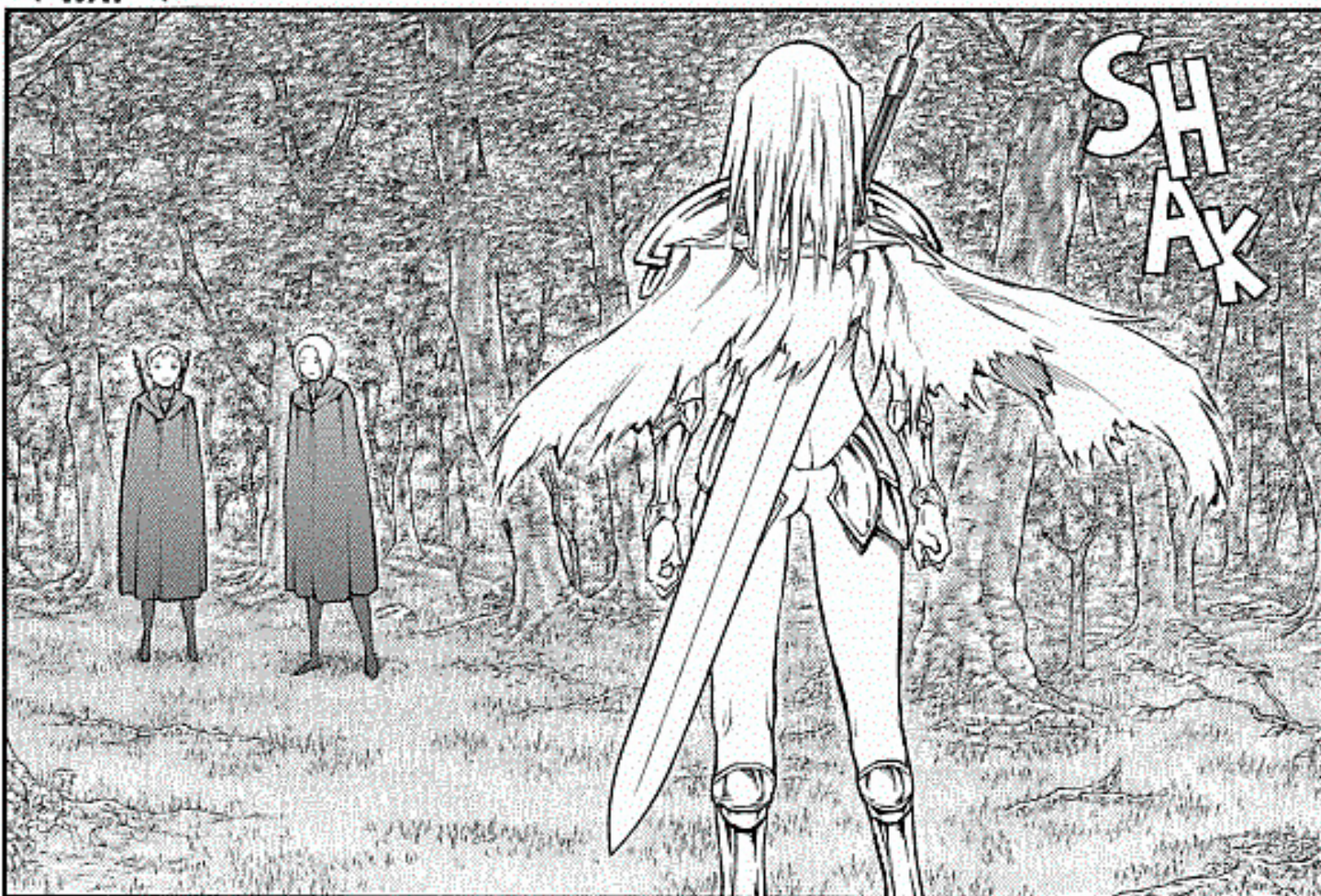
SHF

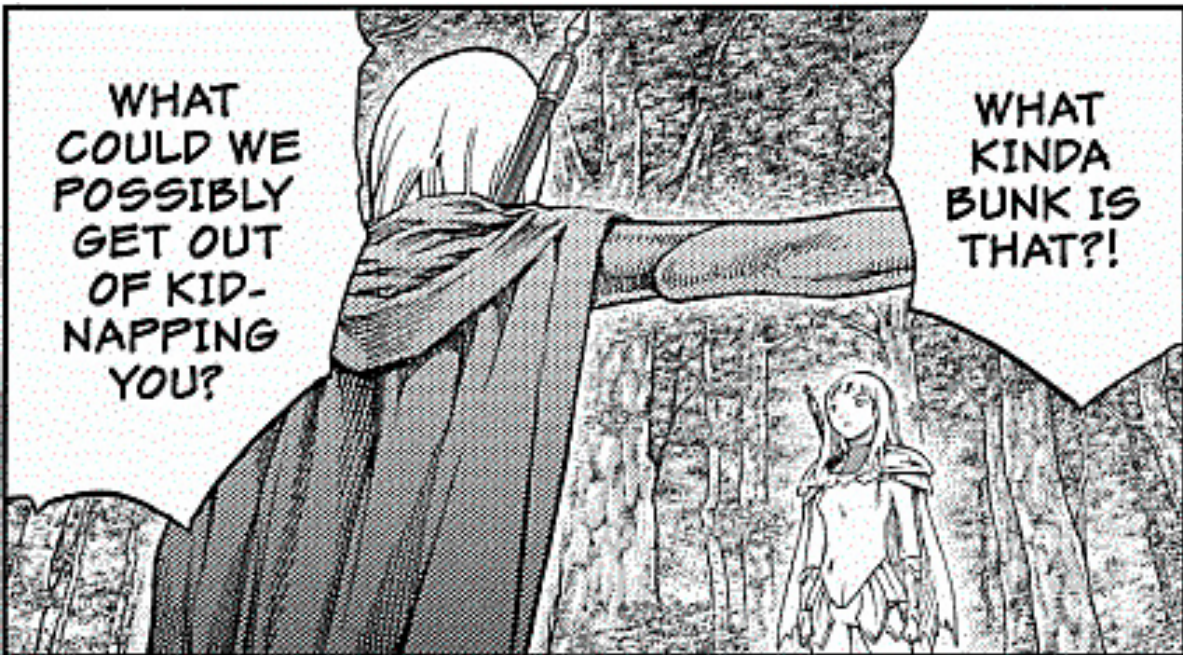
LET'S
GO,
HELEN.





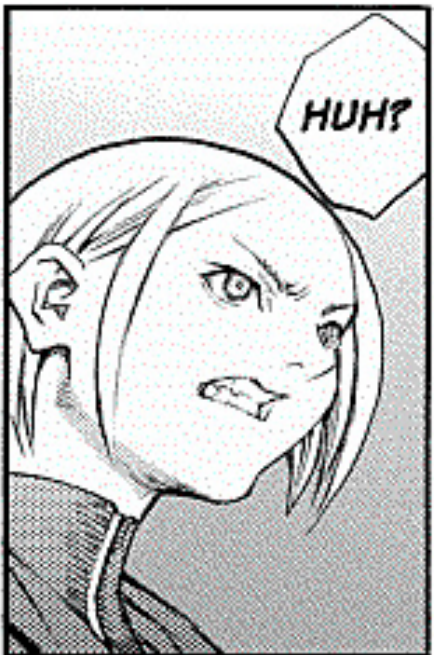




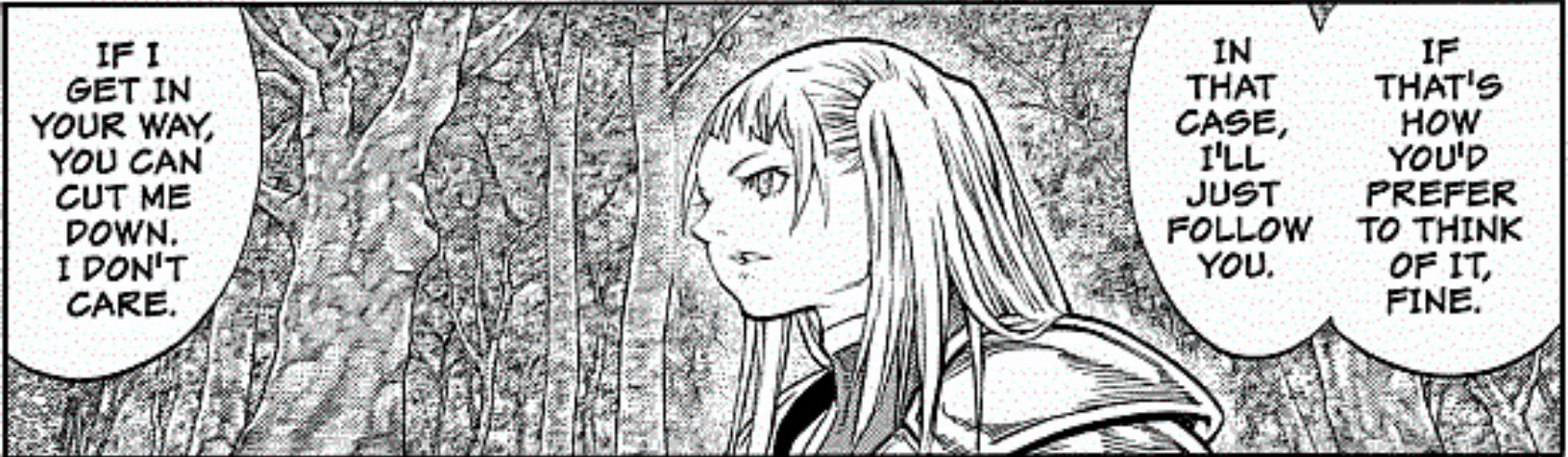


WHAT
COULD WE
POSSIBLY
GET OUT
OF KID-
NAPPING
YOU?

WHAT
KINDA
BUNK IS
THAT?!



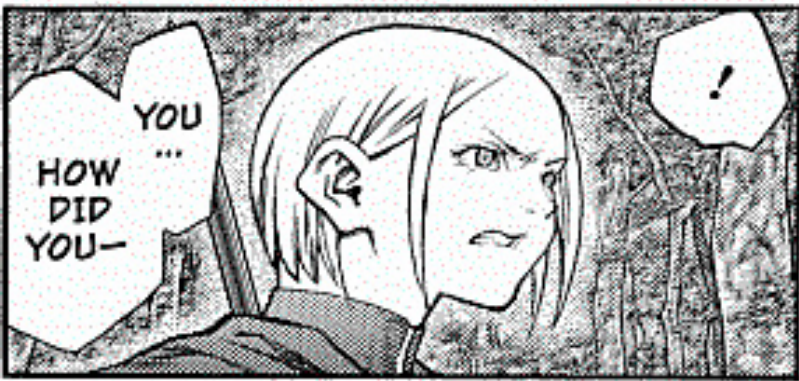
HUH?



IF I
GET IN
YOUR WAY,
YOU CAN
CUT ME
DOWN.
I DON'T
CARE.

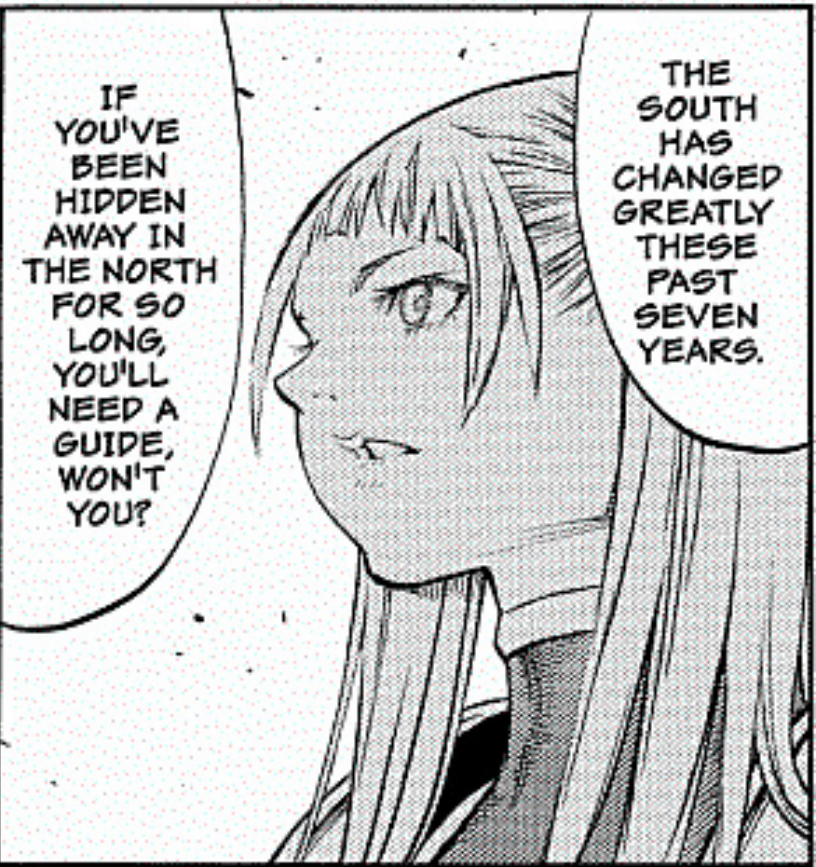
IN
THAT
CASE,
I'LL
JUST
FOLLOW
YOU.

IF
THAT'S
HOW
YOU'D
PREFER
TO THINK
OF IT,
FINE.



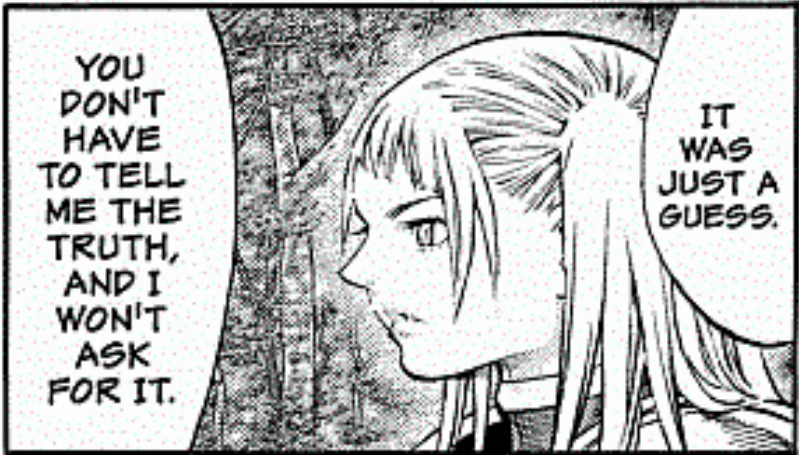
YOU
...
HOW
DID
YOU—

!



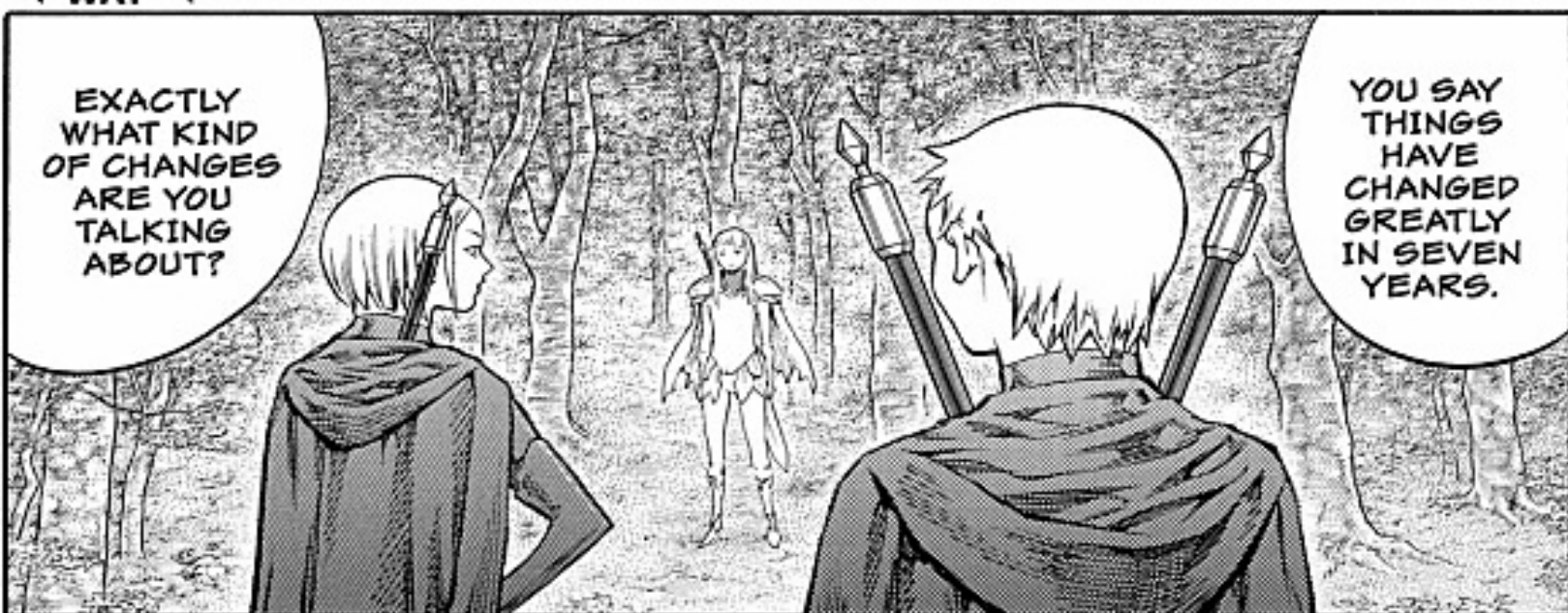
IF
YOU'VE
BEEN
HIDDEN
AWAY IN
THE NORTH
FOR SO
LONG,
YOU'LL
NEED A
GUIDE,
WON'T
YOU?

THE
SOUTH
HAS
CHANGED
GREATLY
THESE
PAST
SEVEN
YEARS.



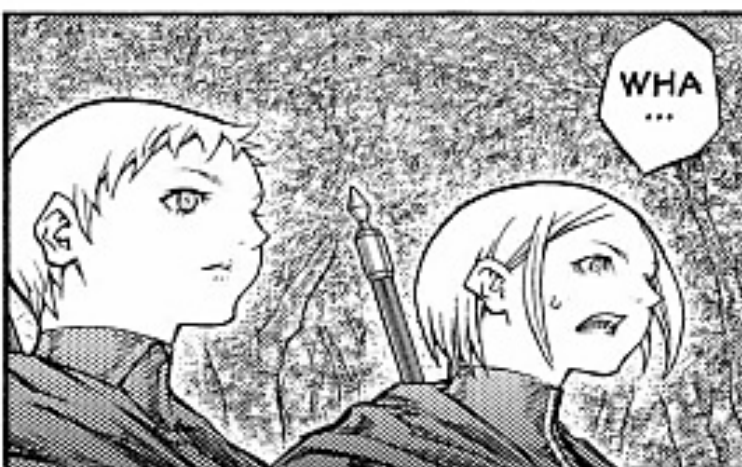
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO TELL
ME THE
TRUTH,
AND I
WON'T
ASK
FOR IT.

IT
WAS
JUST A
GUESS.



EXACTLY
WHAT KIND
OF CHANGES
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU SAY
THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED
GREATLY
IN SEVEN
YEARS.



WHA
...



SECOND,
I HIGHLY
RECOMMEND
THAT
YOU NOT
PROCEED
ANY
FURTHER
SOUTH
THAN
HERE.

FIRST,
HALF THE
TOWNS
IN THE
SOUTHERN
REGION
HAVE BEEN
WIPED
OUT.



...
FROM
HERE?

WHAT
EXISTS
FURTHER
SOUTH...



BUT I
SINCERELY
HOPE
YOU'LL
CONSIDER
MY
WARNING.

I'M NOT
IN A
POSITION
TO GIVE
YOU
PRECISE
DETAILS.



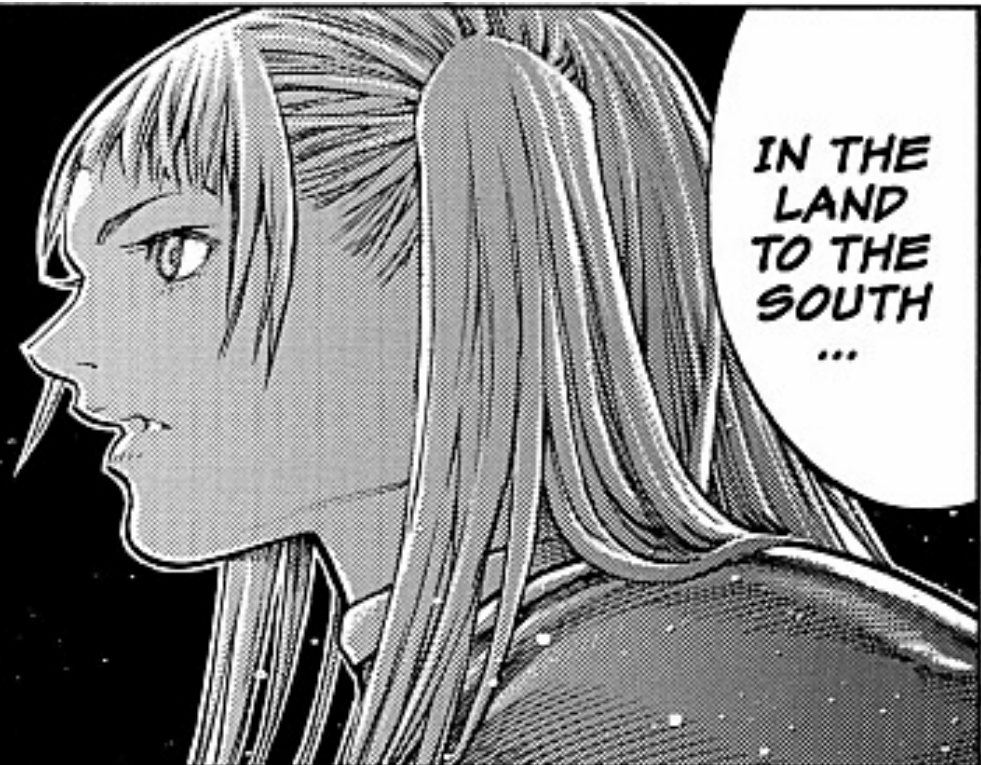
I STILL
DO NOT
KNOW THE
SPECIFIC
REASON
FOR IT.

H-HALF
THE
TOWNS?
WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED?!

I ONLY
KNOW
THE
RESULTS.

...A
DEMONIC
EXIS-
TENCE
DWELLS.

IN THE
LAND
TO THE
SOUTH
...



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...



IF HALF OF
ALL THE TOWNS
ARE GONE,
THAT MEANS
WE DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF MINE
OR YOURS ARE
STILL THERE.

WELL,
GUESS WE
SHOULD GO
AND SEE FOR
OURSELVES.

TMP

HALF
OF
THEM?
HALF!

TMP

...DESPITE
MY
WARNING?

YOU'RE
GOING
...

...

IF WE'VE
COME ALL
THIS WAY
WE MIGHT
AS WELL
FIND OUT
WHAT
IT IS.

AND THIS
"DEMONIC
EXIS-
TENCE"
OF
YOURS.

WHAT
DID YOU
EXPECT?
ONE WARNING
AND WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO TUCK
OUR TAILS
AND RUN
AWAY?

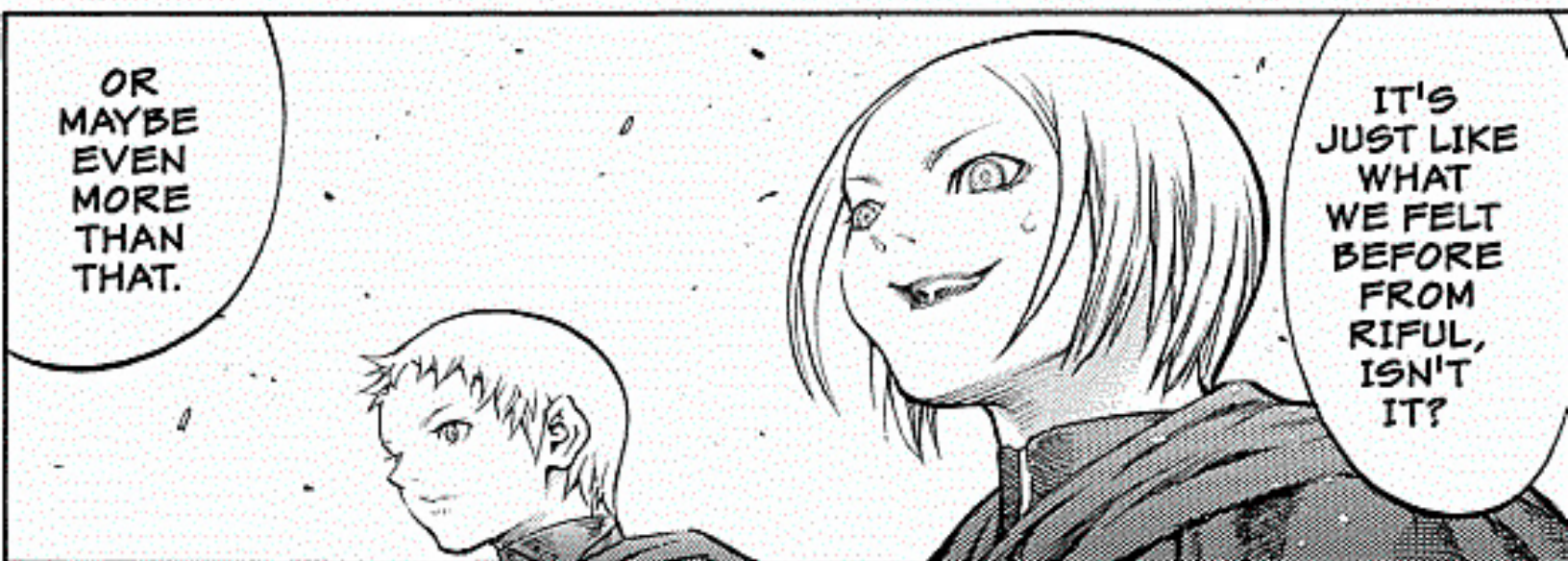
THAT'S
WHAT WE
CAME
FOR.

RSTLE



SPEAKING
OF
WHICH...

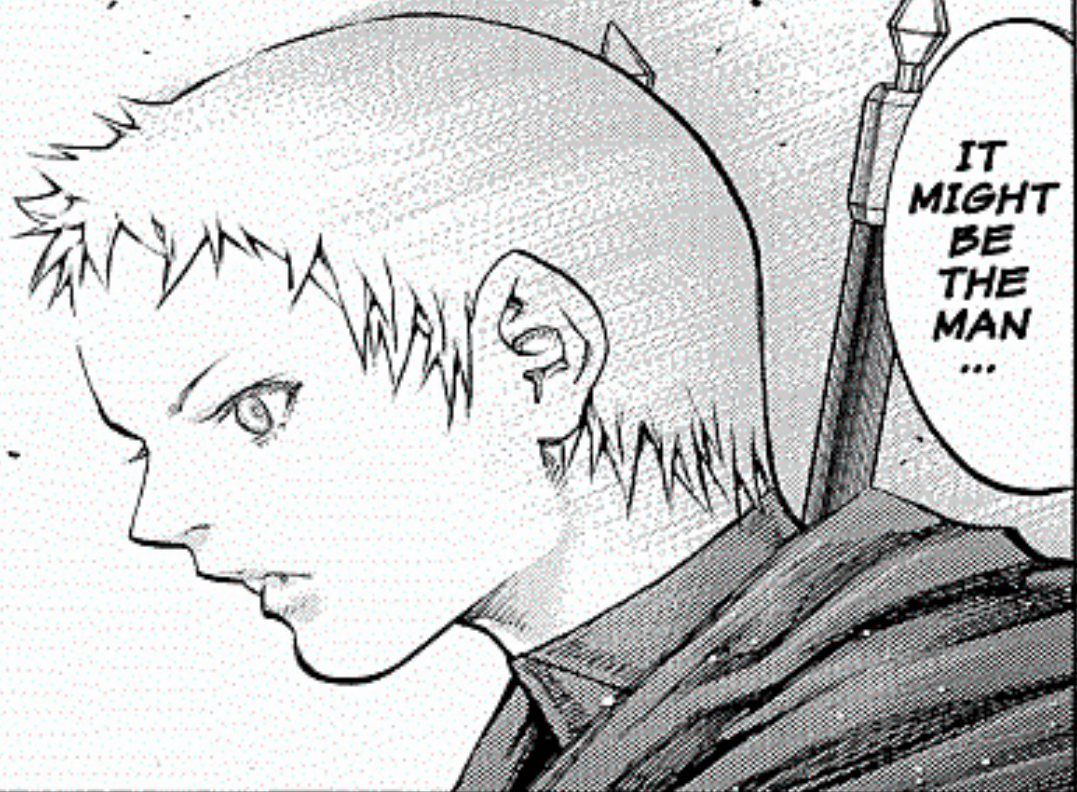
THERE'S A
RIDICULOUS
AMOUNT
OF YOMA
ENERGY
RADIATING
FROM THIS
TOWN.



OR
MAYBE
EVEN
MORE
THAN
THAT.

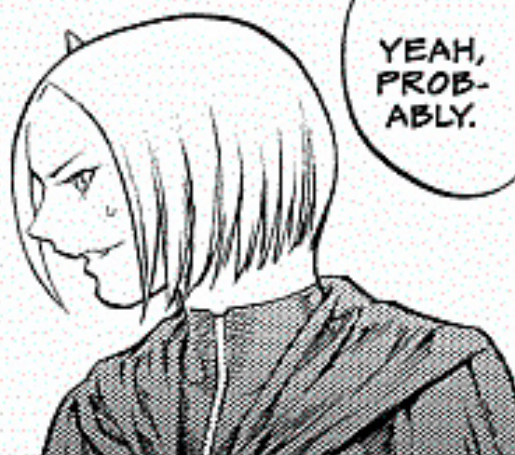
IT'S
JUST LIKE
WHAT
WE FELT
BEFORE
FROM
RIFUL,
ISN'T
IT?

...WHO
DEFEATED
LUCIELA,
THE
ABYSSAL
ONE OF
THE SOUTH,
ISLEY.

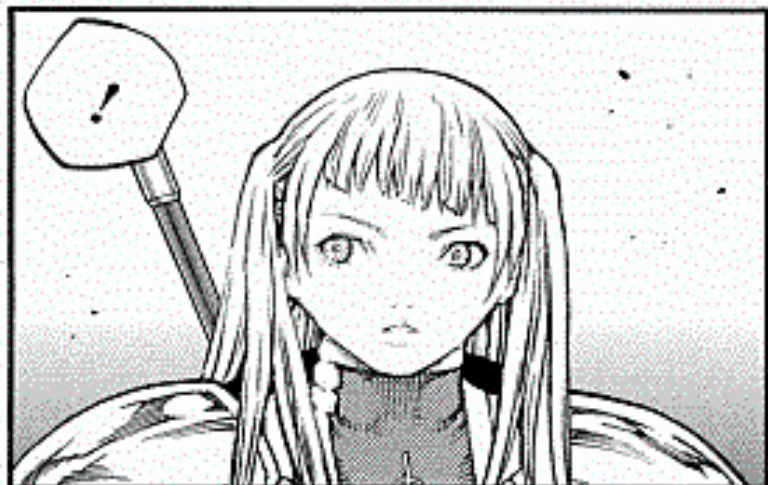


IT
MIGHT
BE
THE
MAN
...

HE
CERTAINLY
COUNTS
AS A
DEMON.

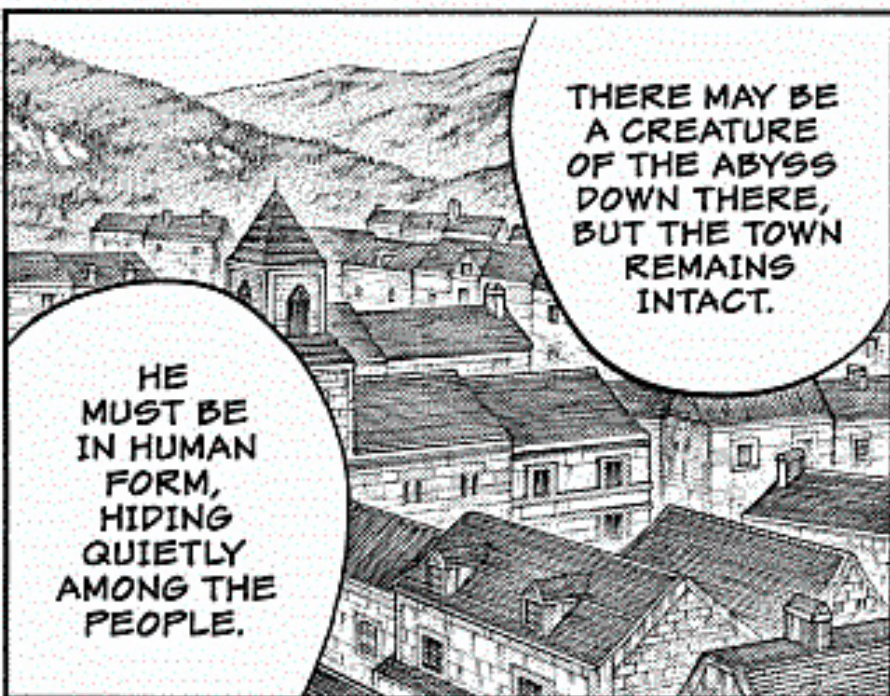


YEAH,
PROB-
ABLY.



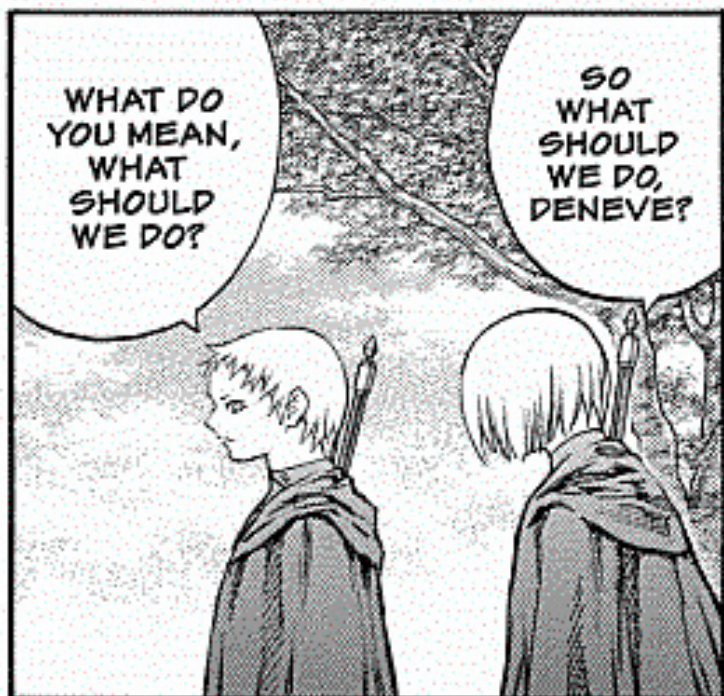
THERE MAY BE
A CREATURE
OF THE ABYSS
DOWN THERE,
BUT THE TOWN
REMAINS
INTACT.

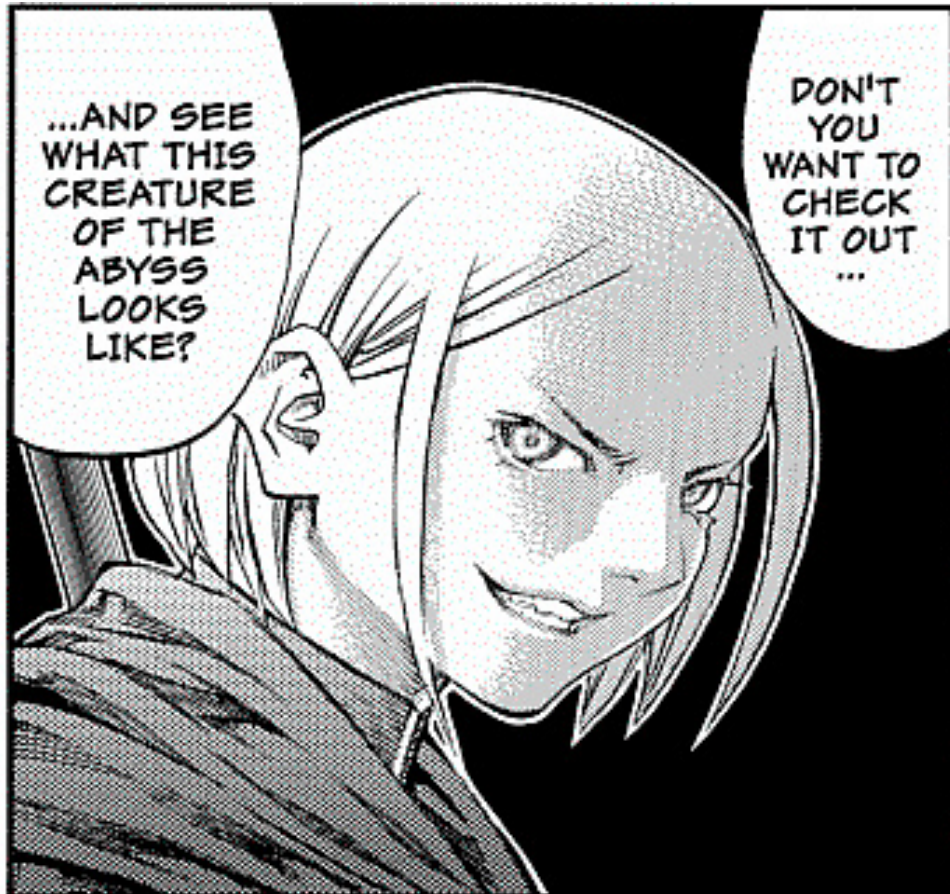
HE
MUST BE
IN HUMAN
FORM,
HIDING
QUIETLY
AMONG THE
PEOPLE.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

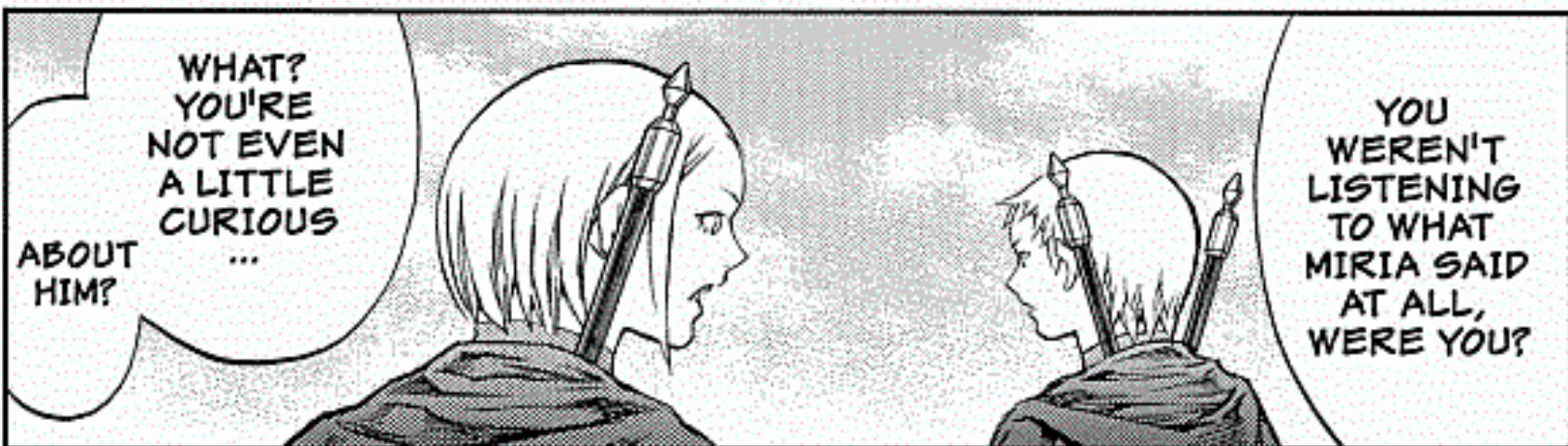
SO
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO,
DENEVE?





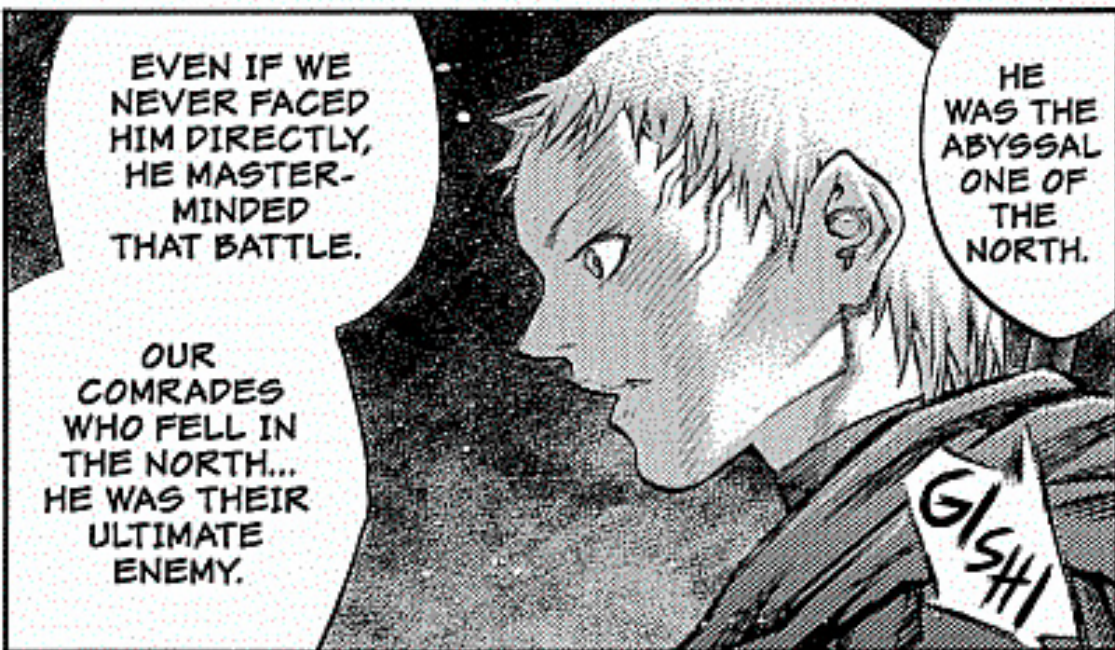
...AND SEE
WHAT THIS
CREATURE
OF THE
ABYSS
LOOKS
LIKE?

DON'T
YOU
WANT TO
CHECK
IT OUT
...



WHAT?
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
A LITTLE
CURIOUS
...
ABOUT
HIM?

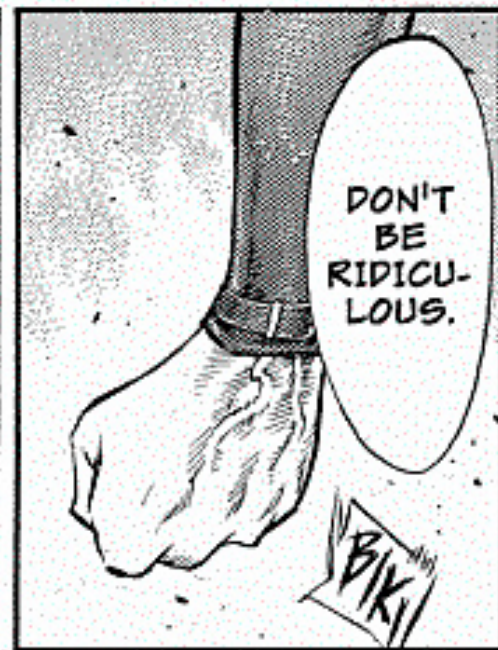
YOU
WEREN'T
LISTENING
TO WHAT
MIRIA SAID
AT ALL,
WERE YOU?



EVEN IF WE
NEVER FACED
HIM DIRECTLY,
HE MASTER-
MINDED
THAT BATTLE.

OUR
COMRADES
WHO FELL IN
THE NORTH...
HE WAS THEIR
ULTIMATE
ENEMY.

HE
WAS THE
ABYSSAL
ONE OF
THE
NORTH.



DON'T
BE
RIDICU-
LOUS.





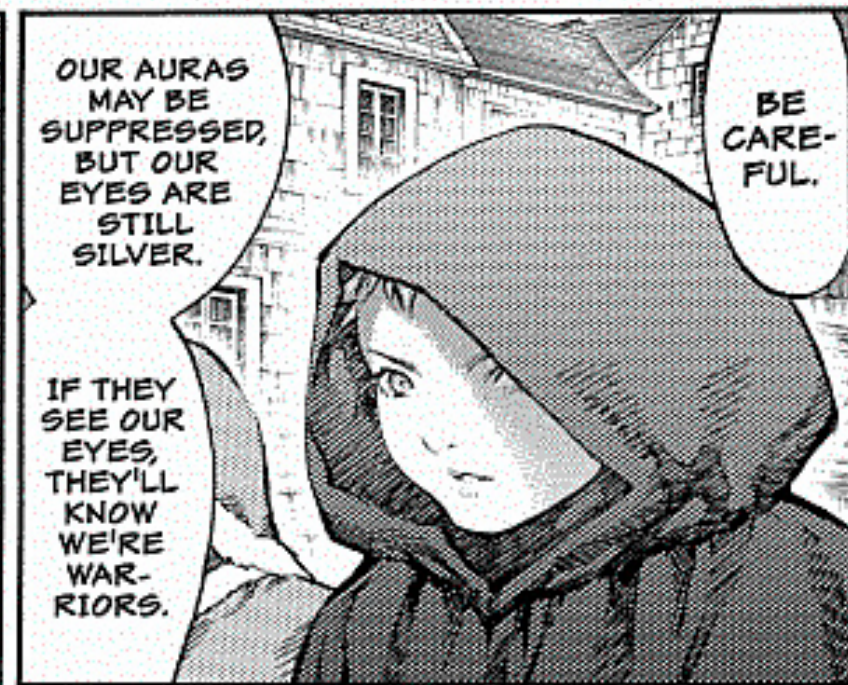
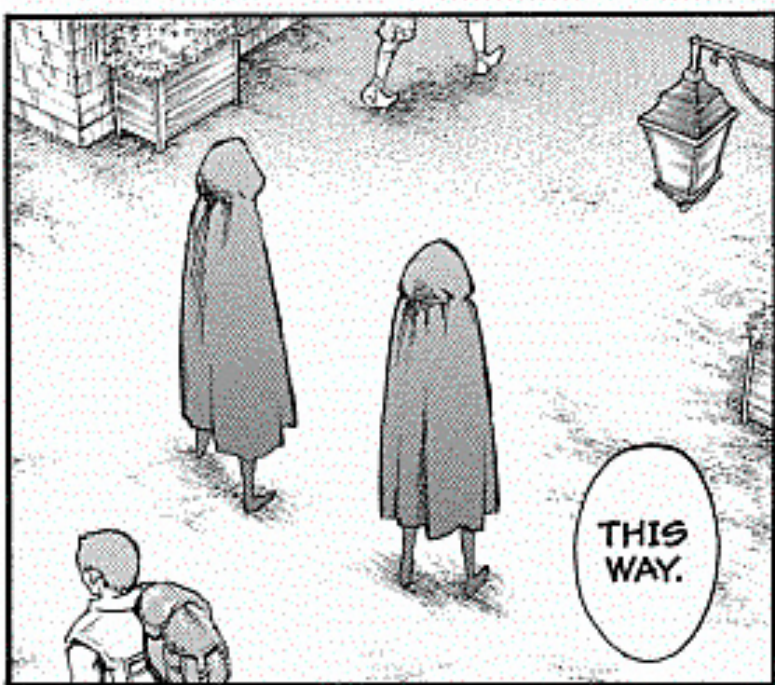
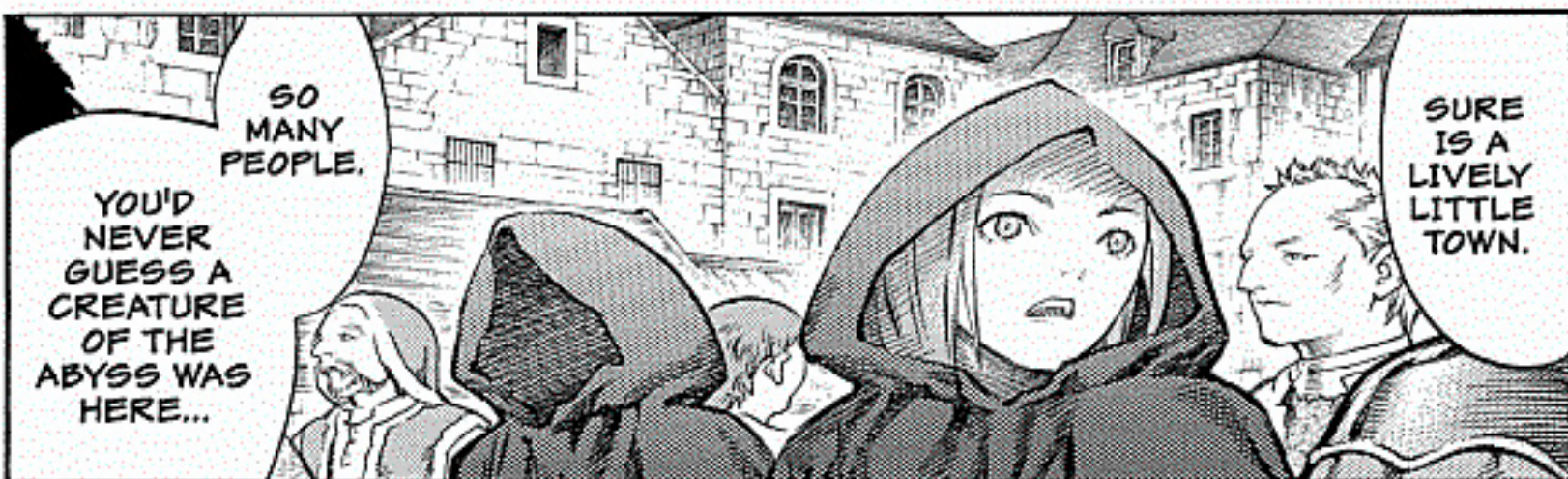
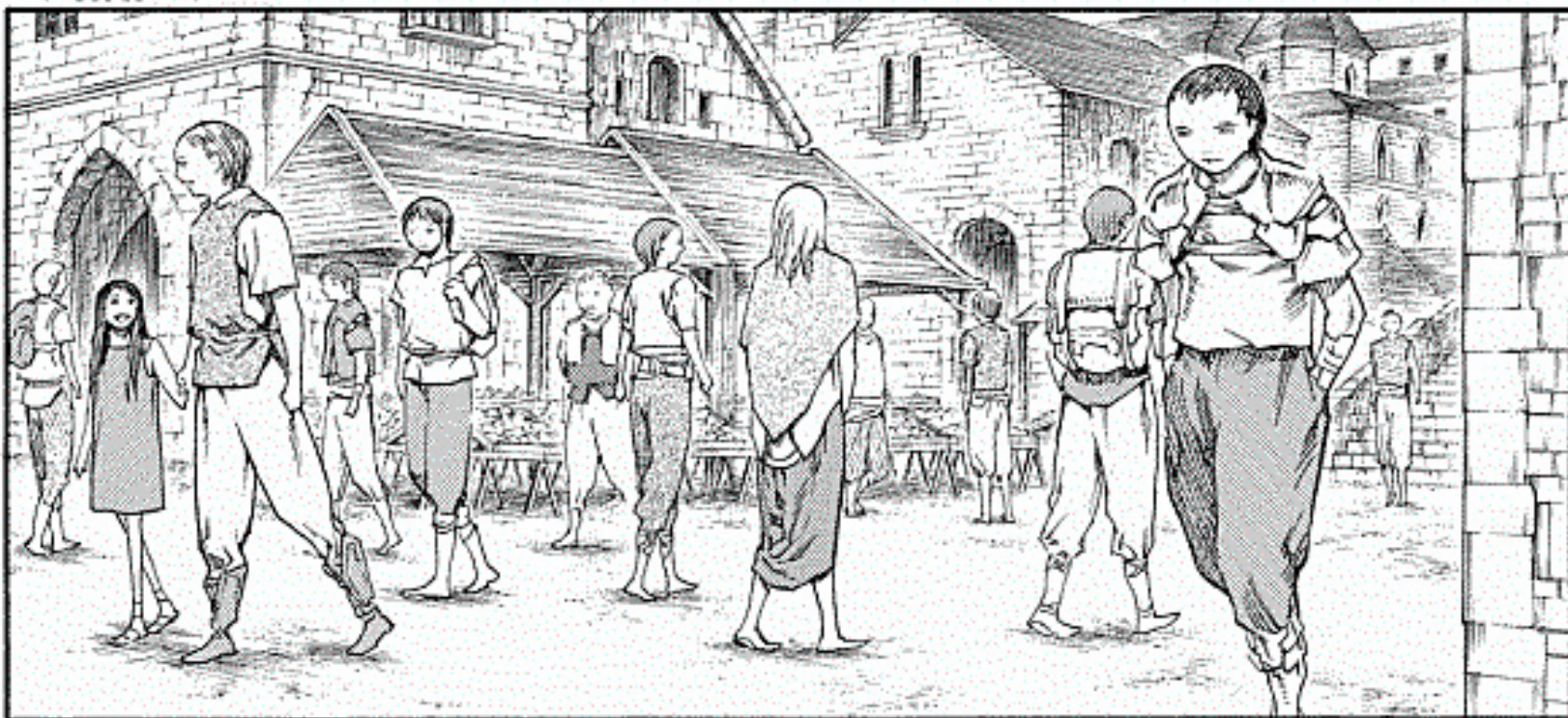
WHAT
KIND OF
FOOLS
ARE
THEY?

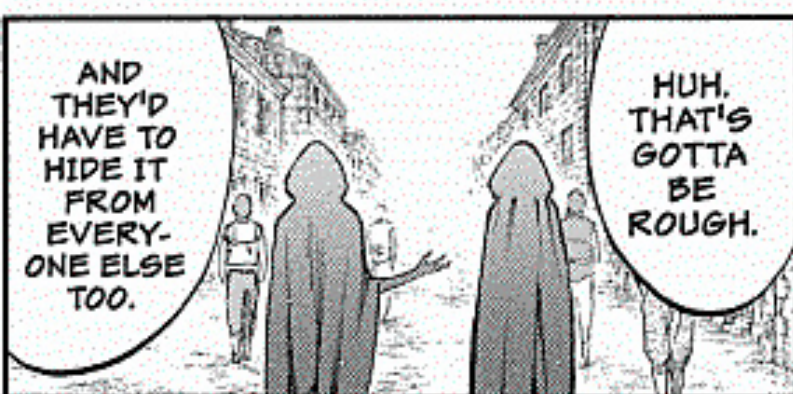
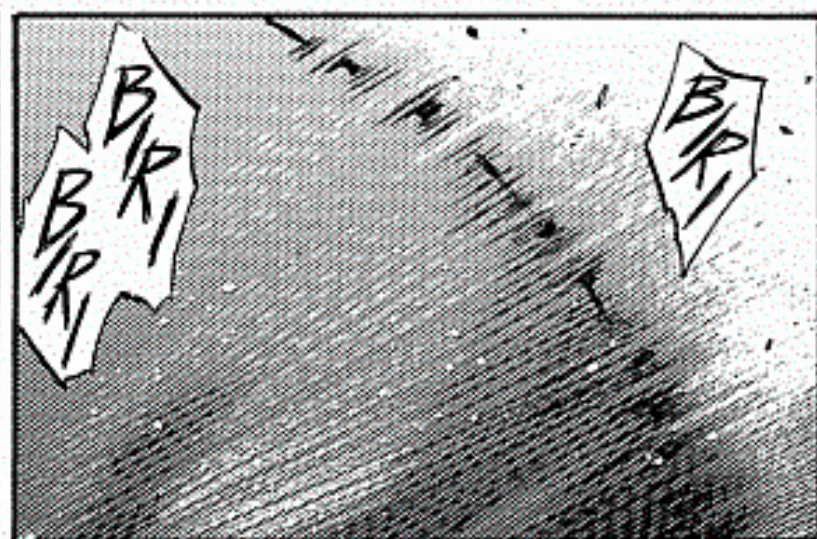
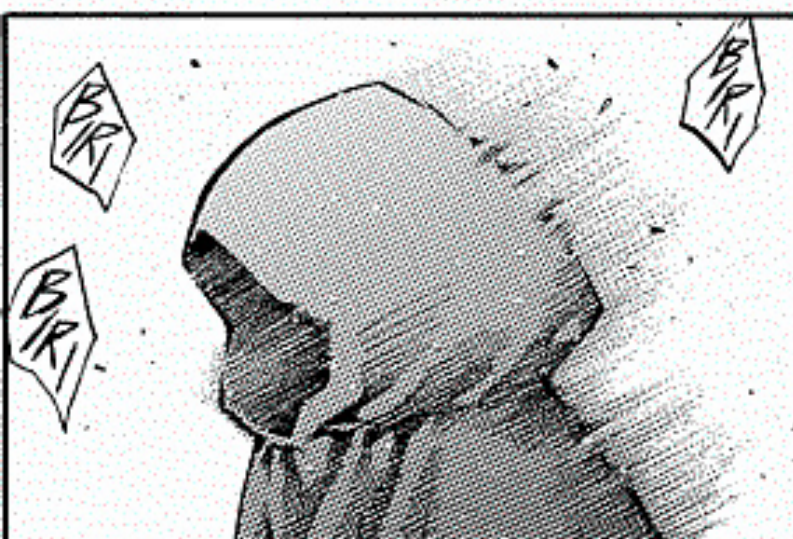
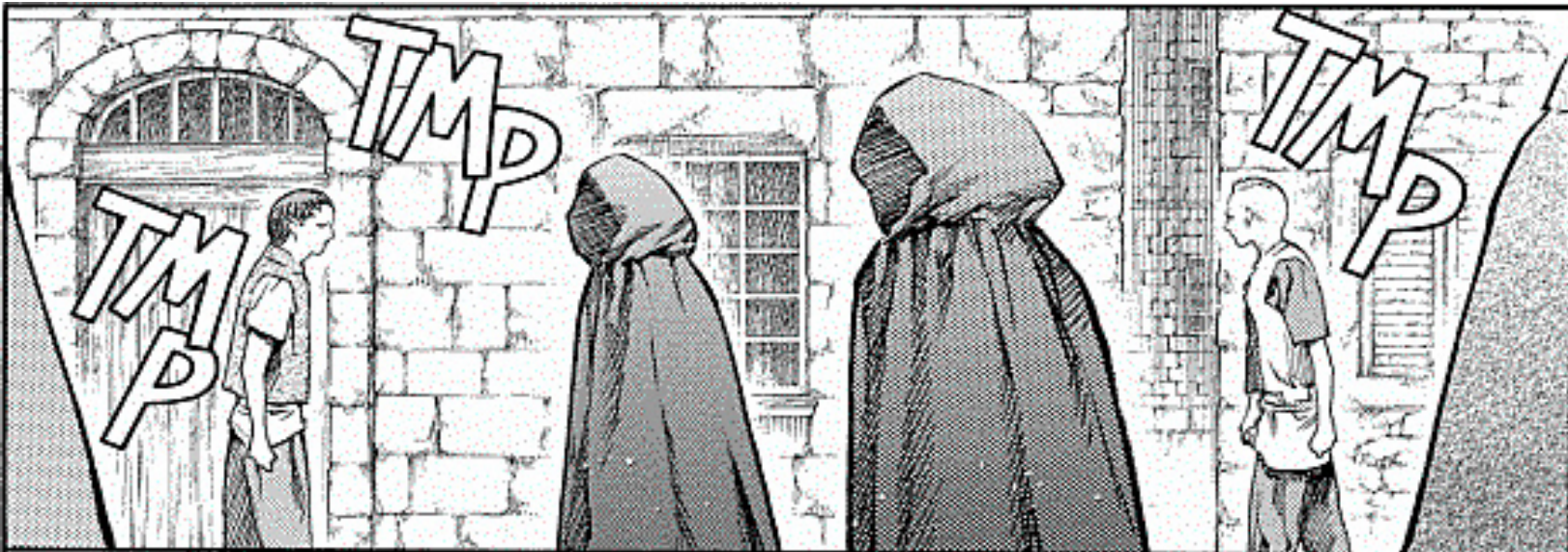
UNBE-
LIEVABLE
...

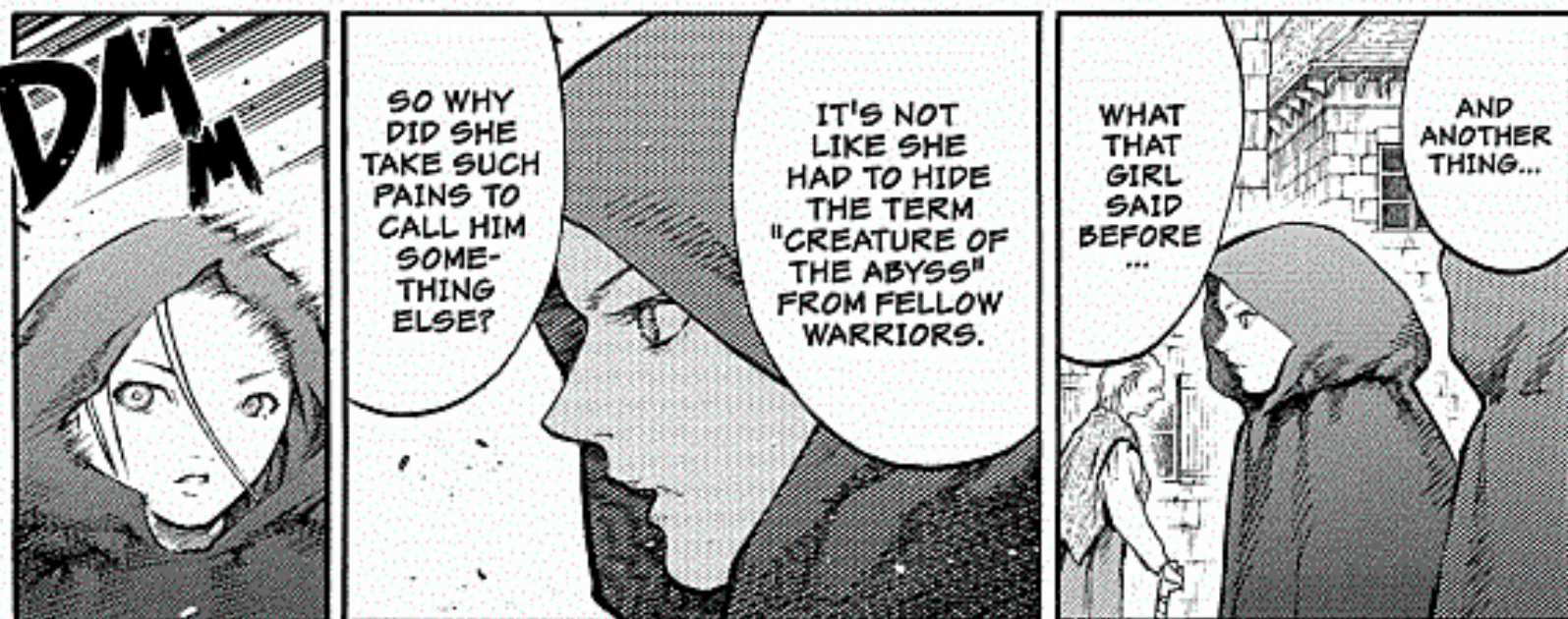
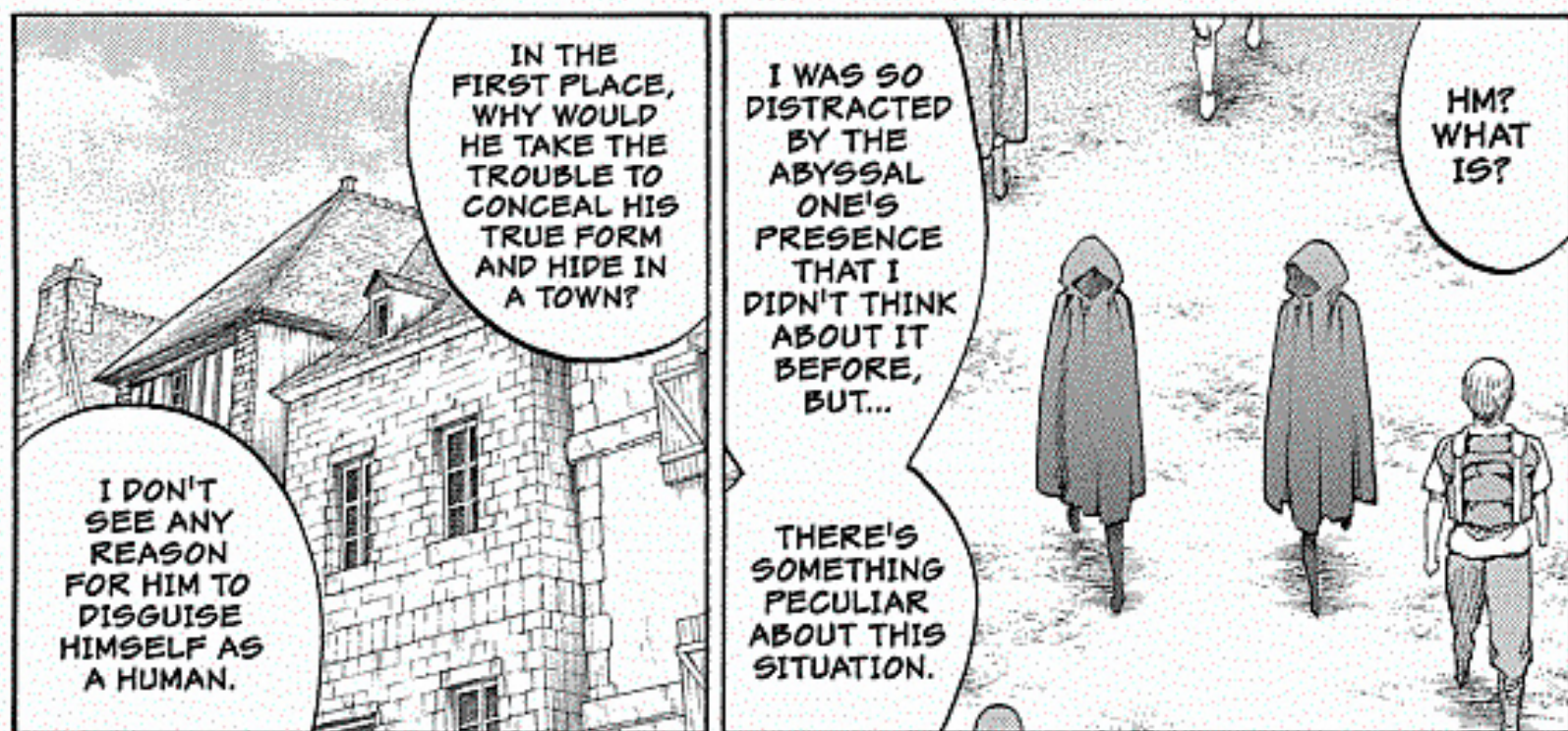
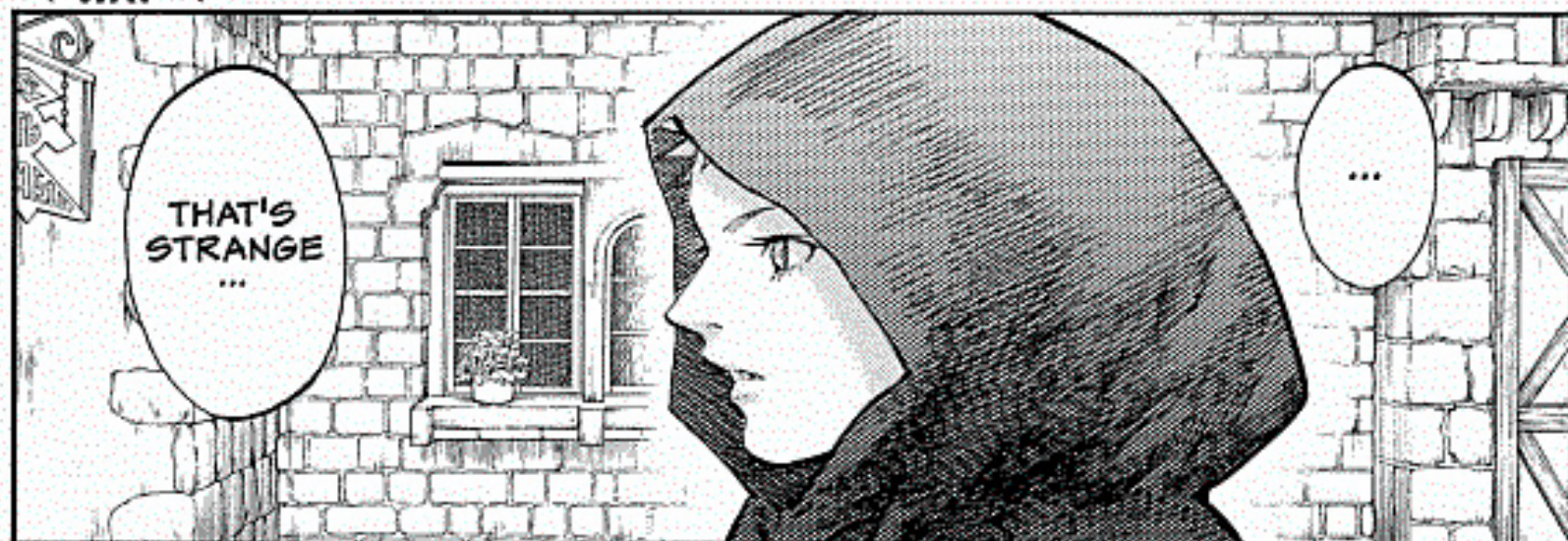


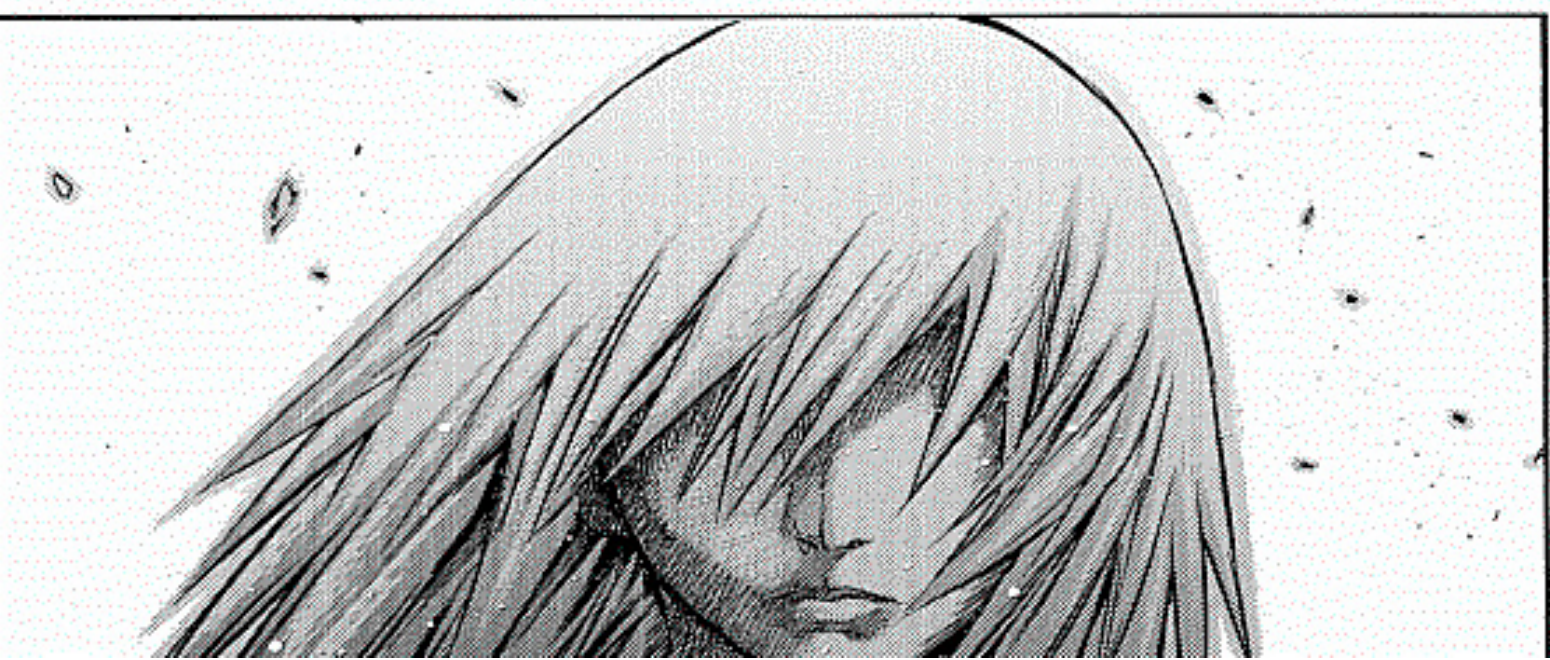
...HIDING
YOUR
AURAS
ISN'T
GOING
TO BE
ENOUGH.

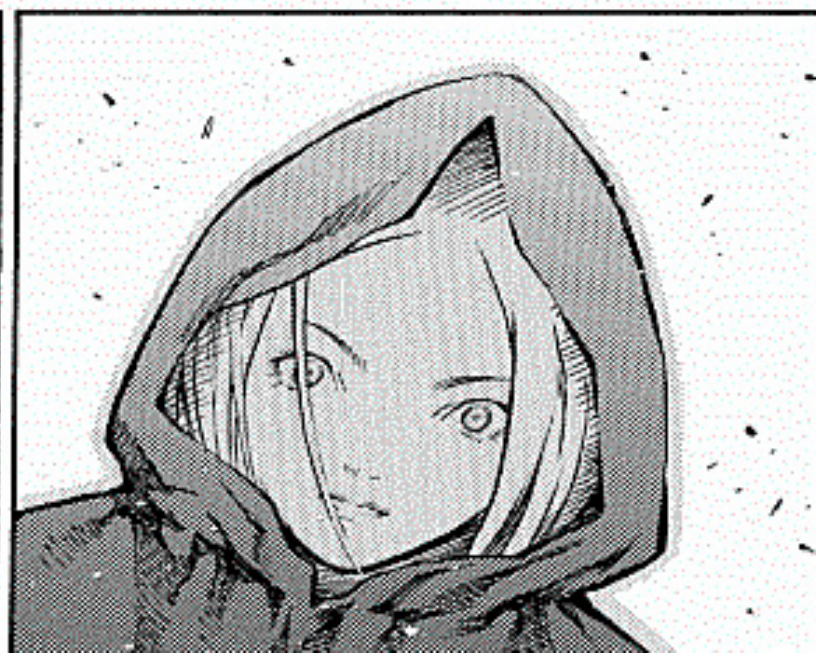
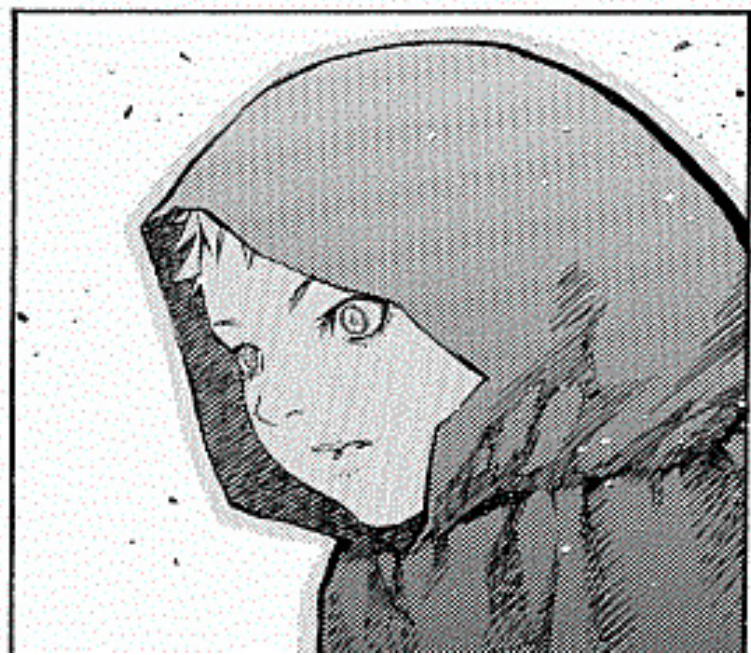
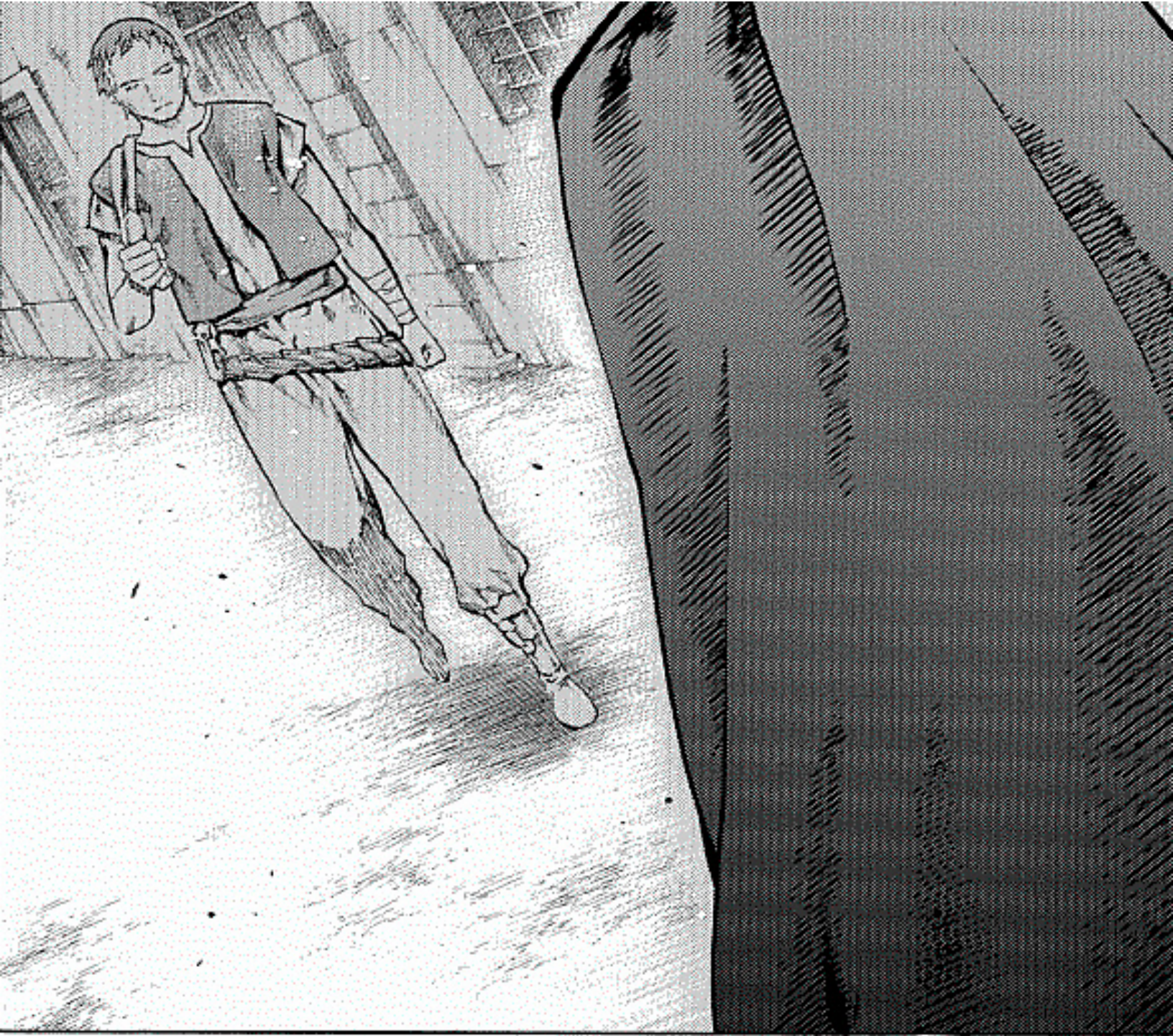
AGAINST
A
CREATURE
OF THE
ABYSS...

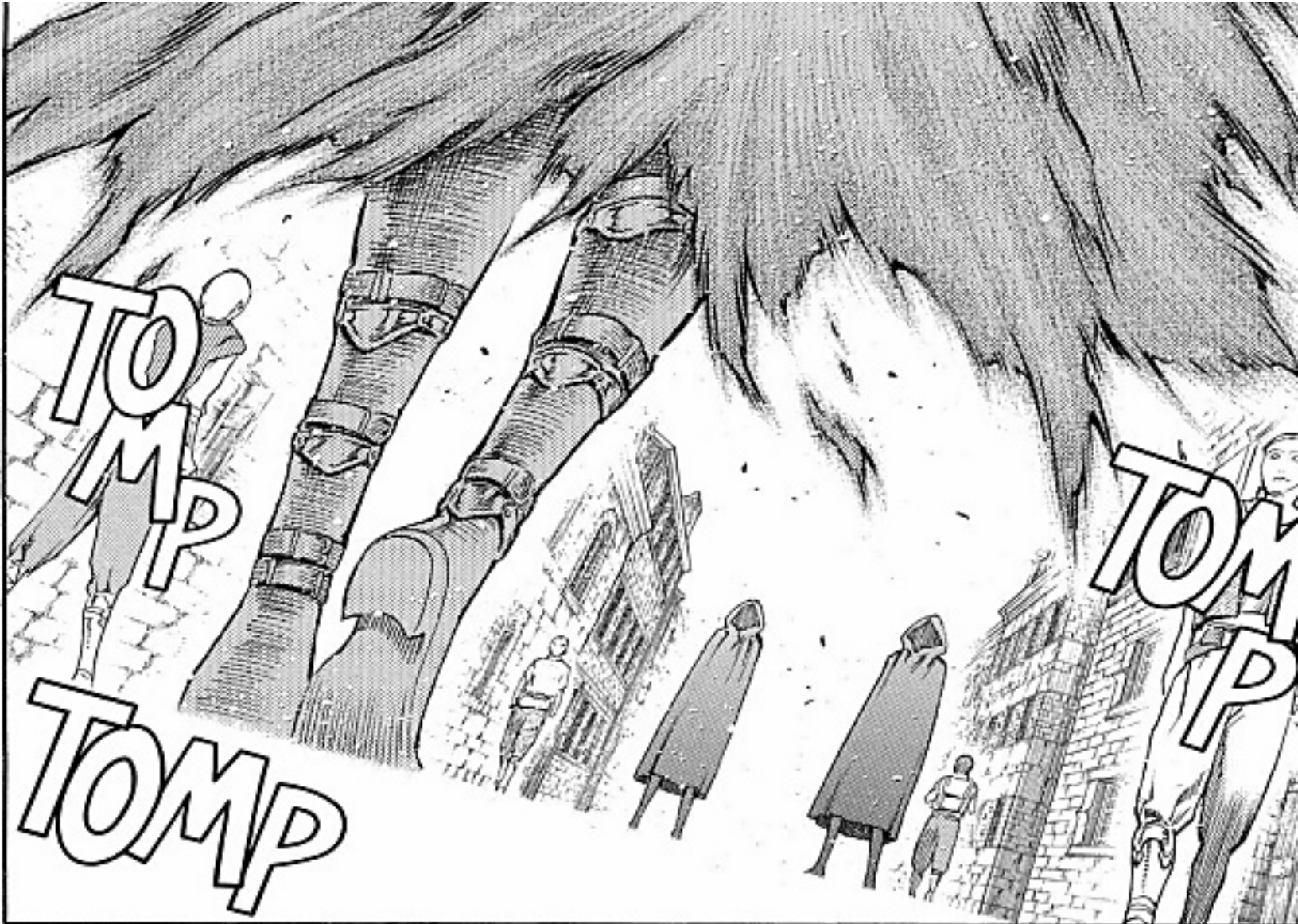












HE
CAN'T
HAVE
NOTICED
OUR
AURAS
YET.

WE'RE
JUST LIKE
ORDINARY
PEOPLE.

DON'T
STOP...
KEEP
WALK-
ING.



H-HANG
ON A
SEC...

MY...
MY
LEGS
...

LET'S
GO,
HELEN.



WHEN
DID
HE...?

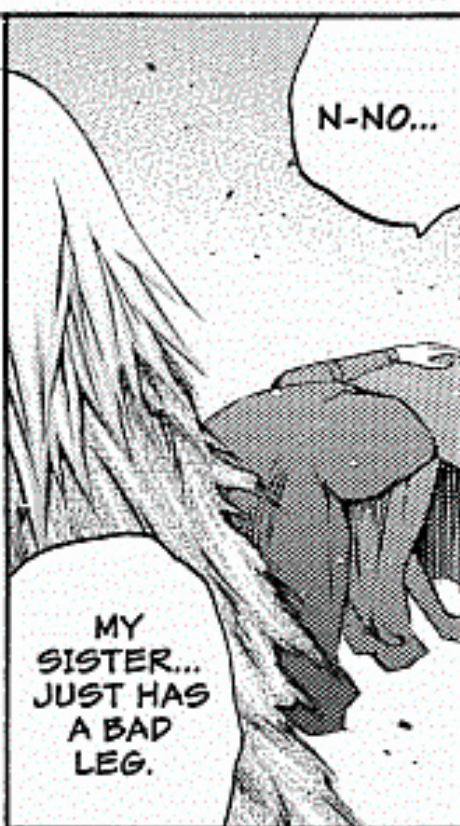
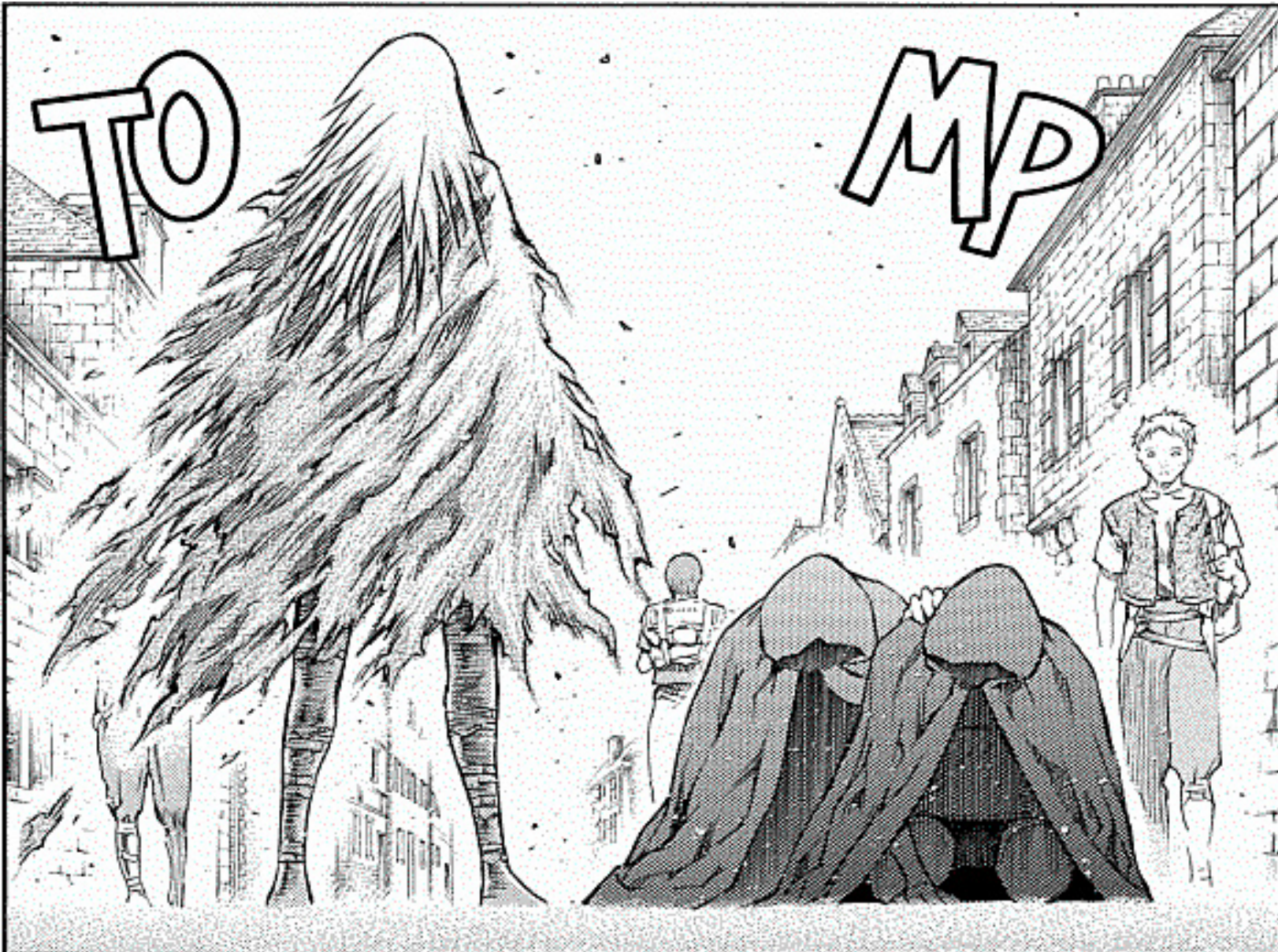
DAMN
...

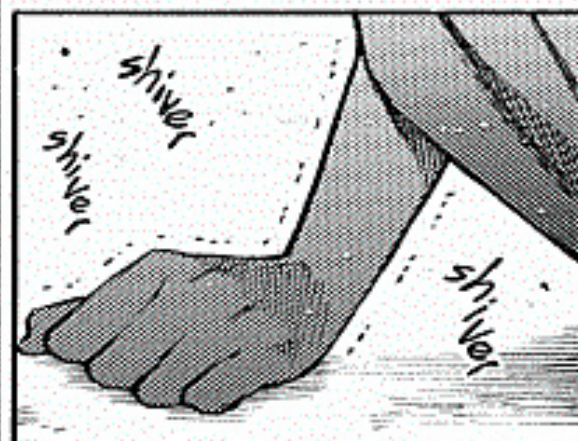
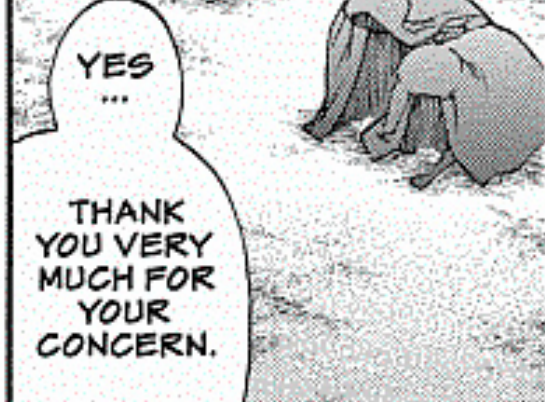
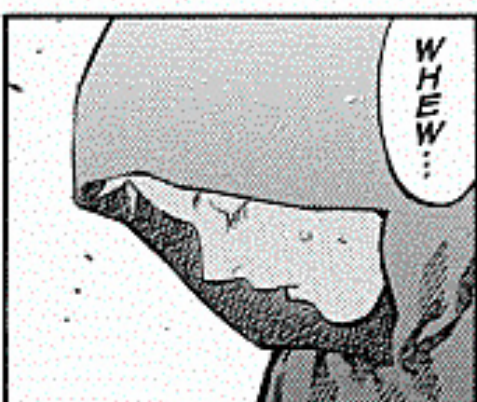
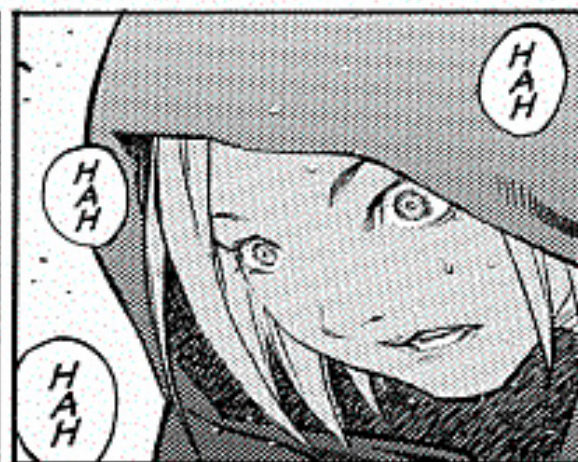
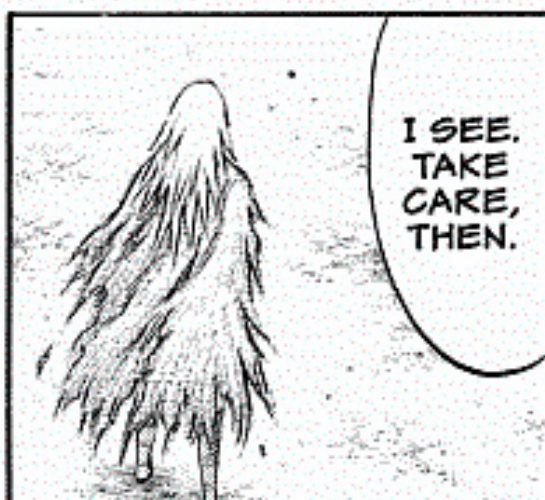
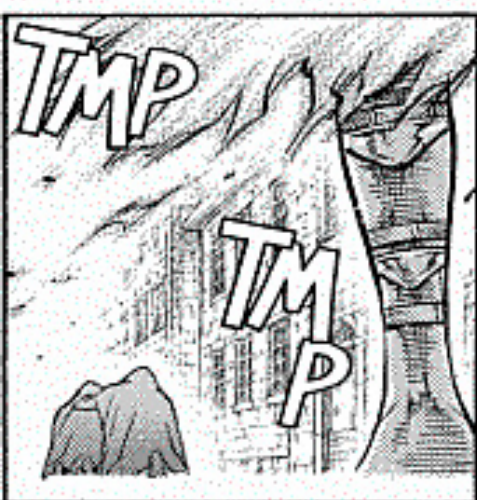
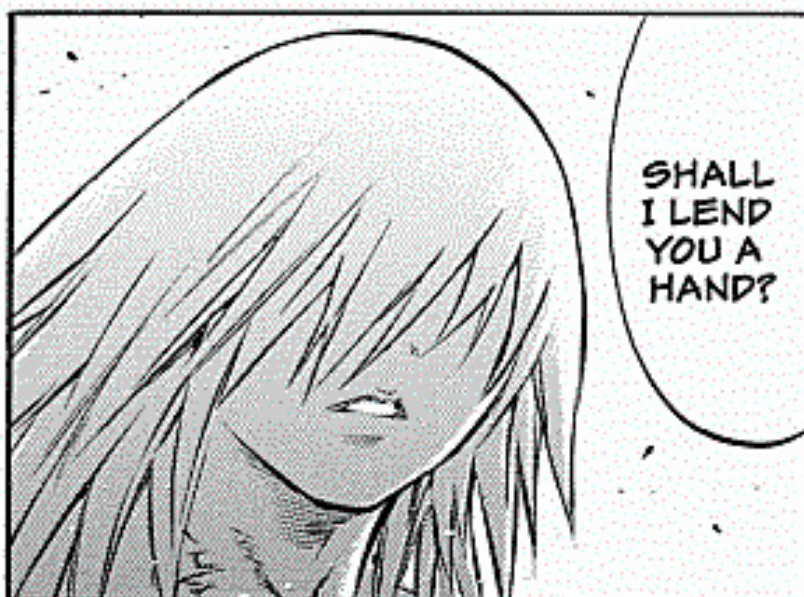
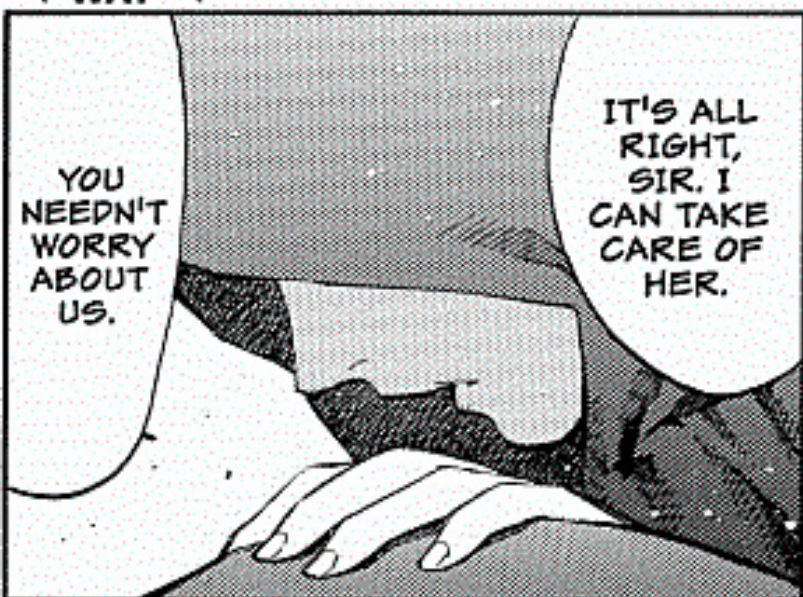


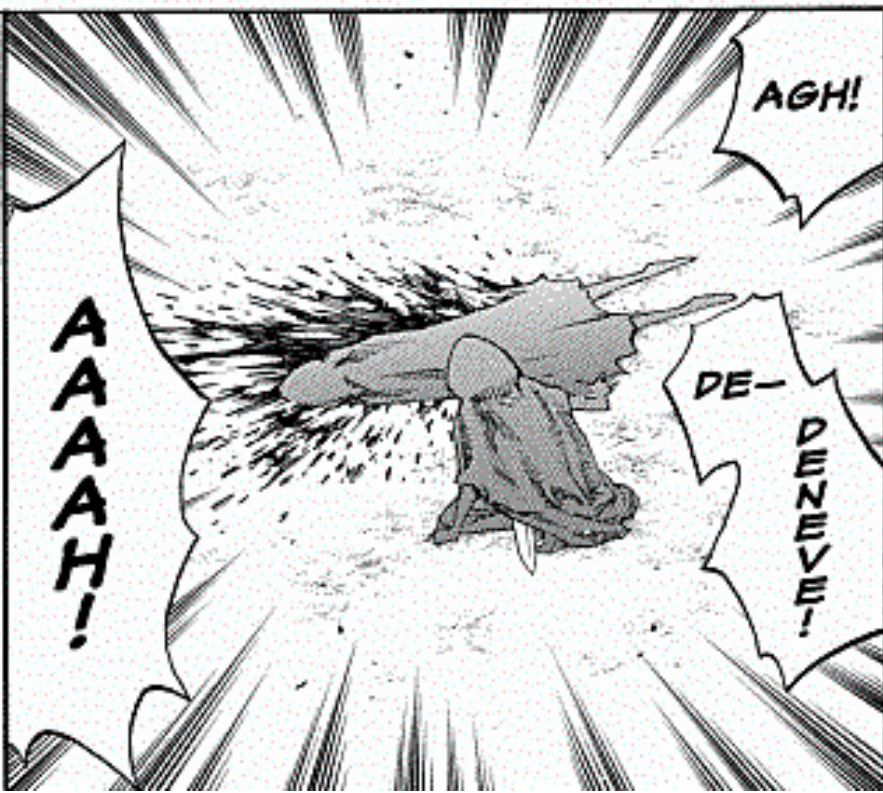
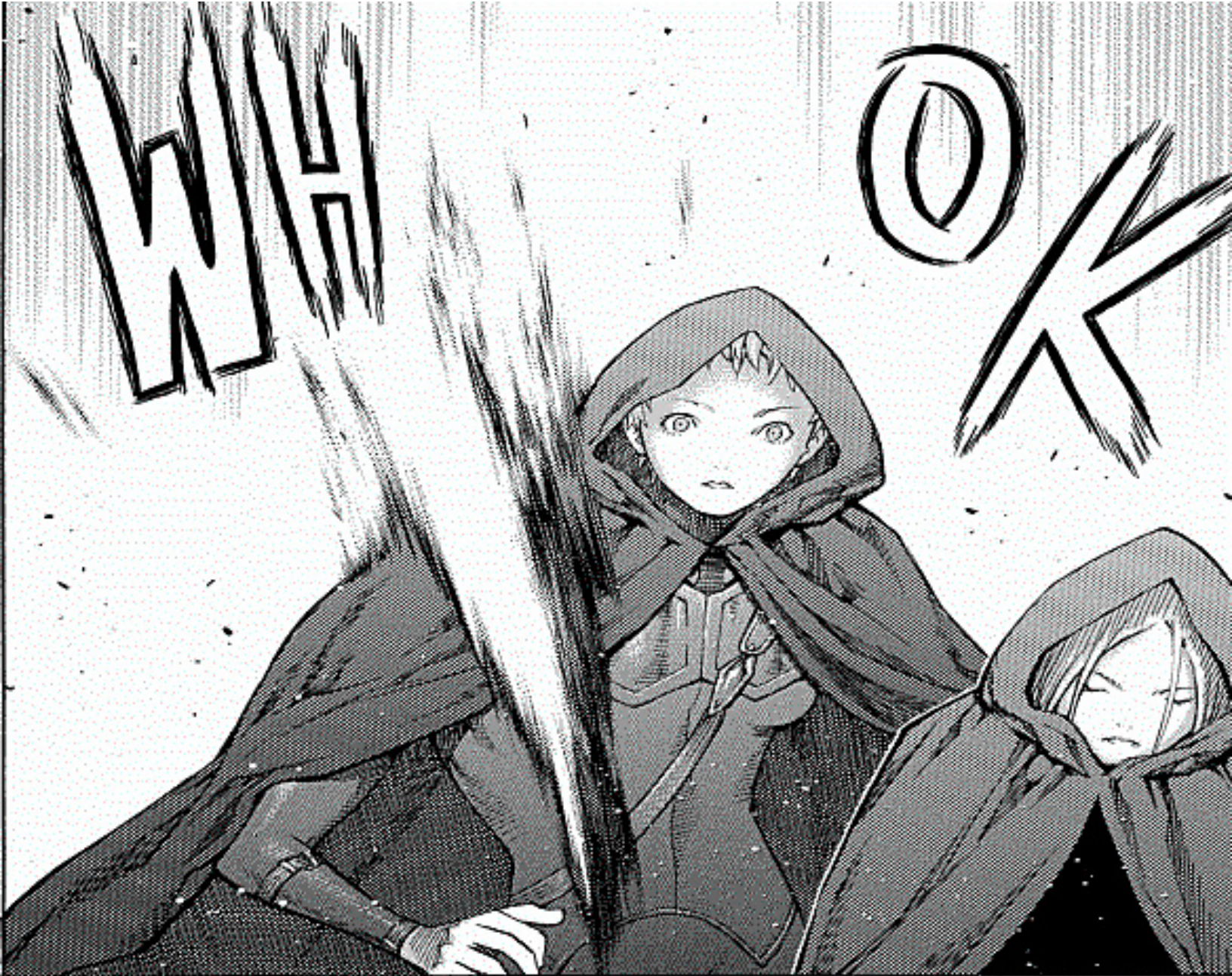
...IS
HE...?

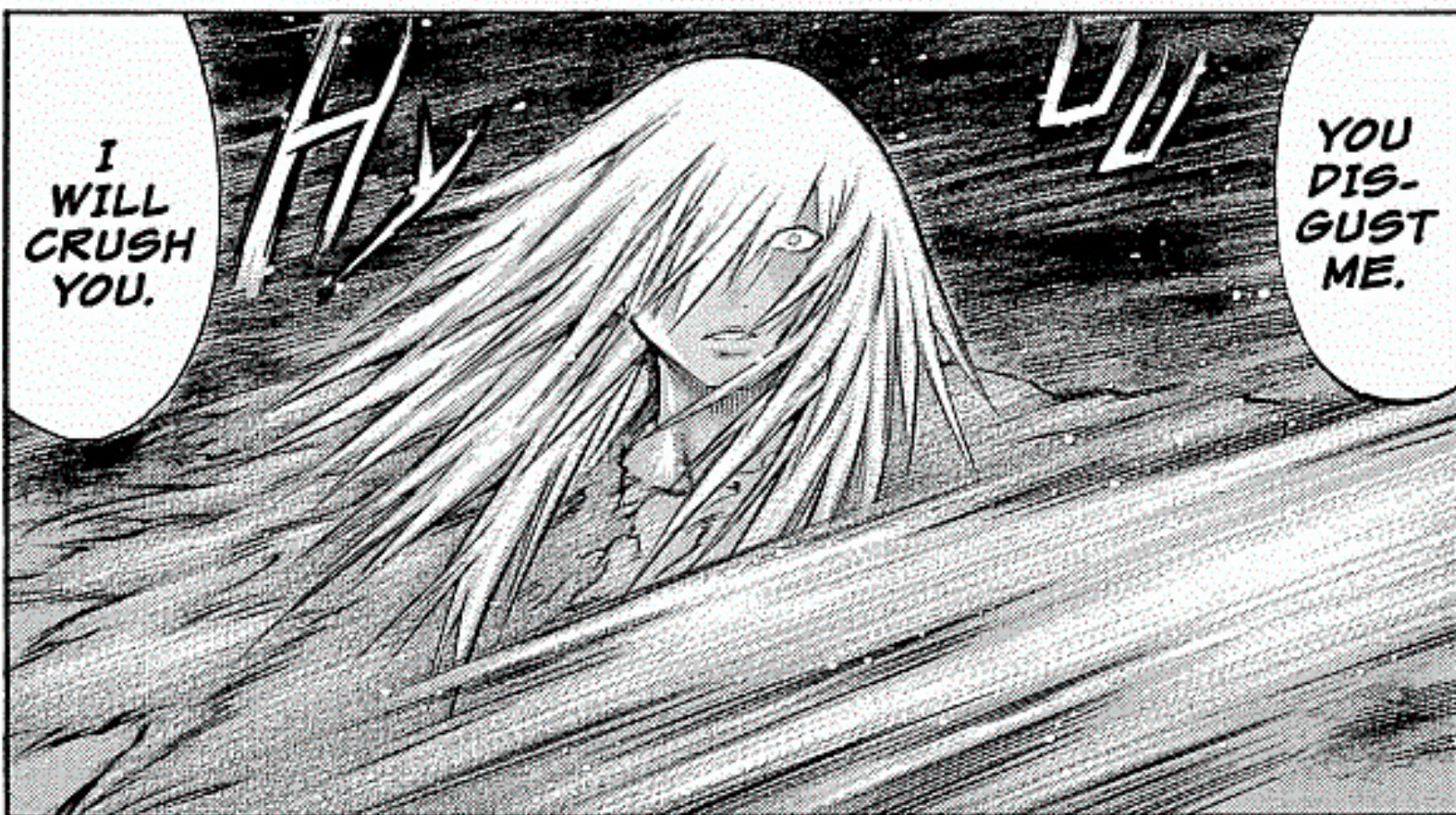
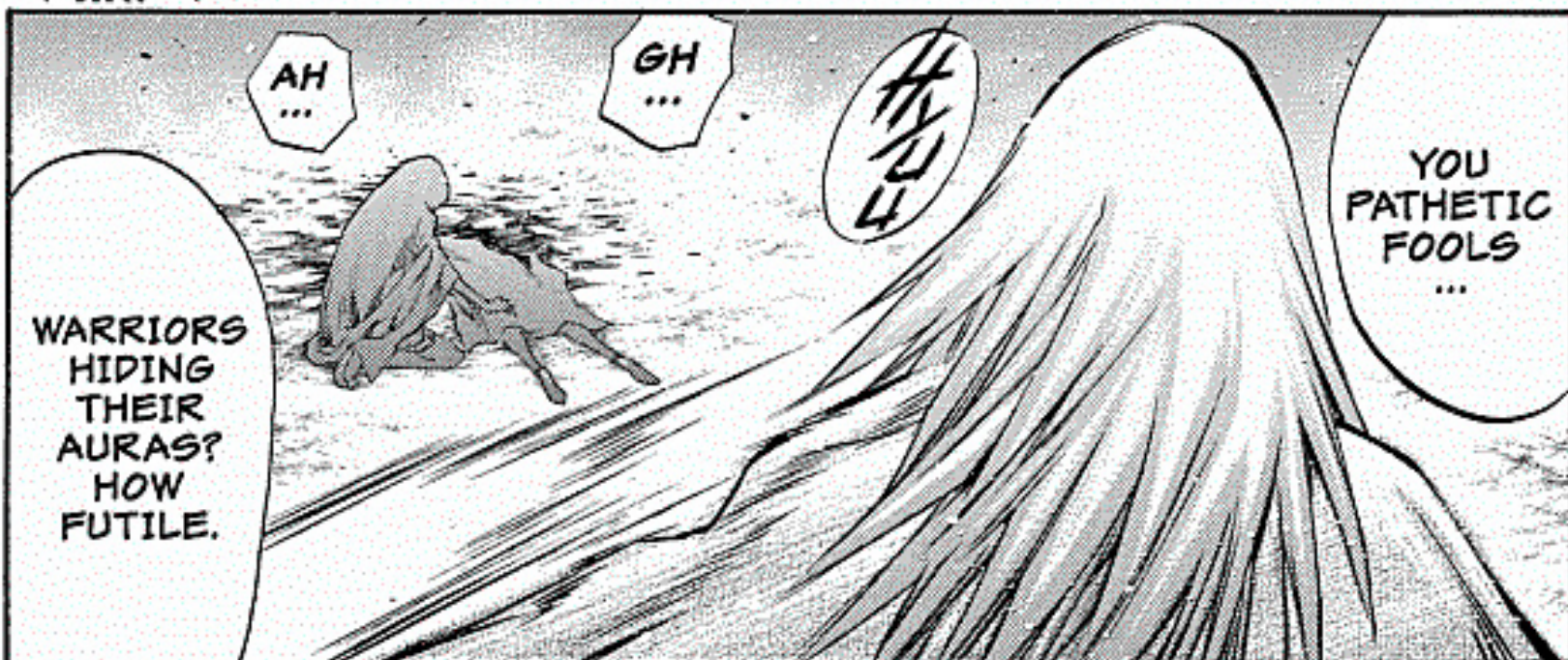
IS
THAT
...













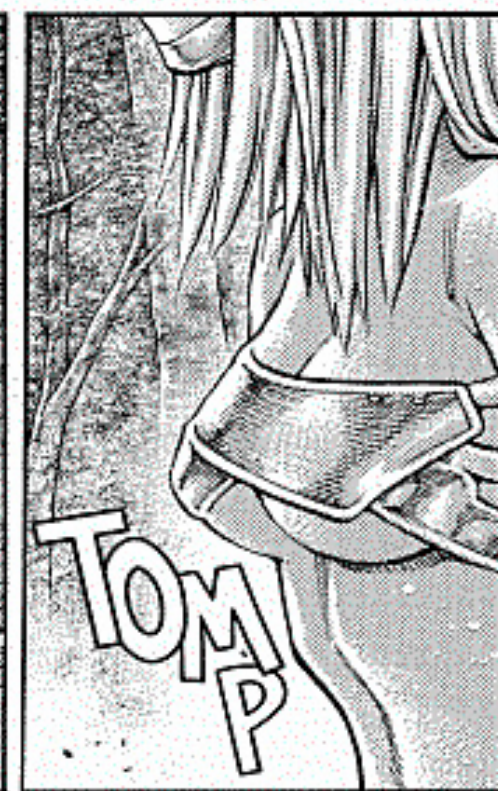
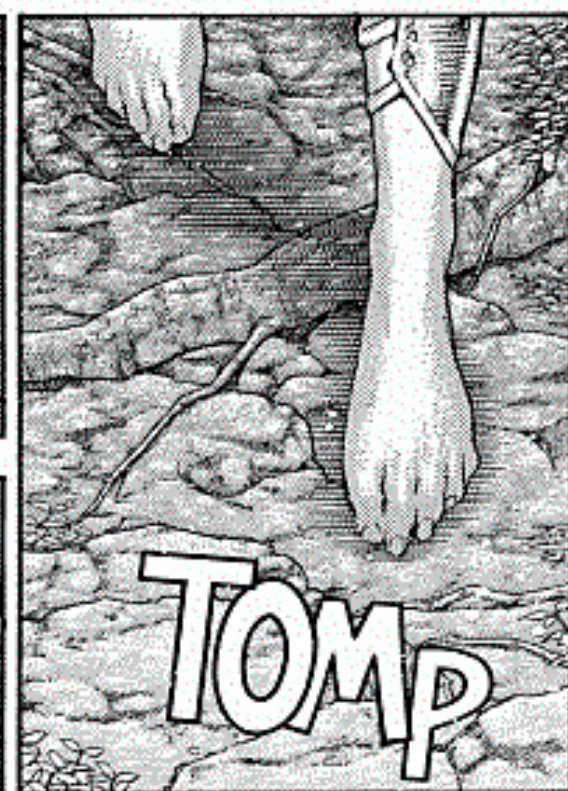
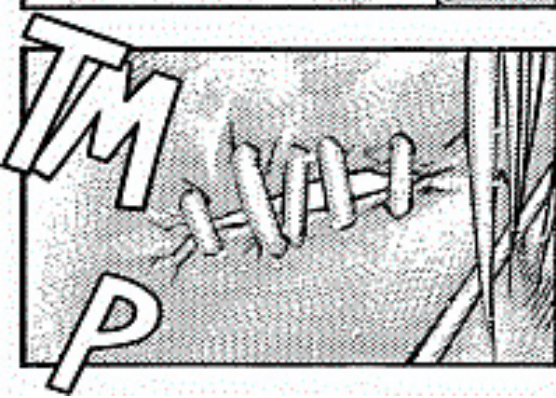
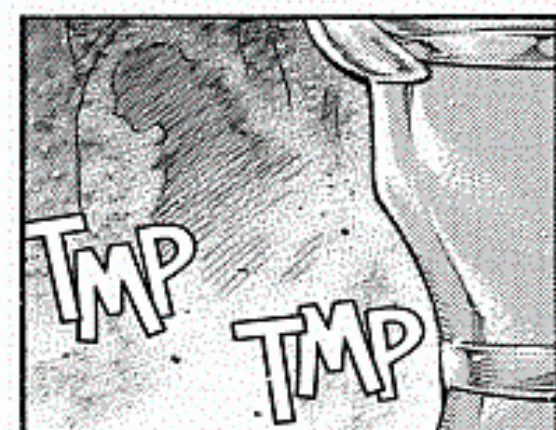
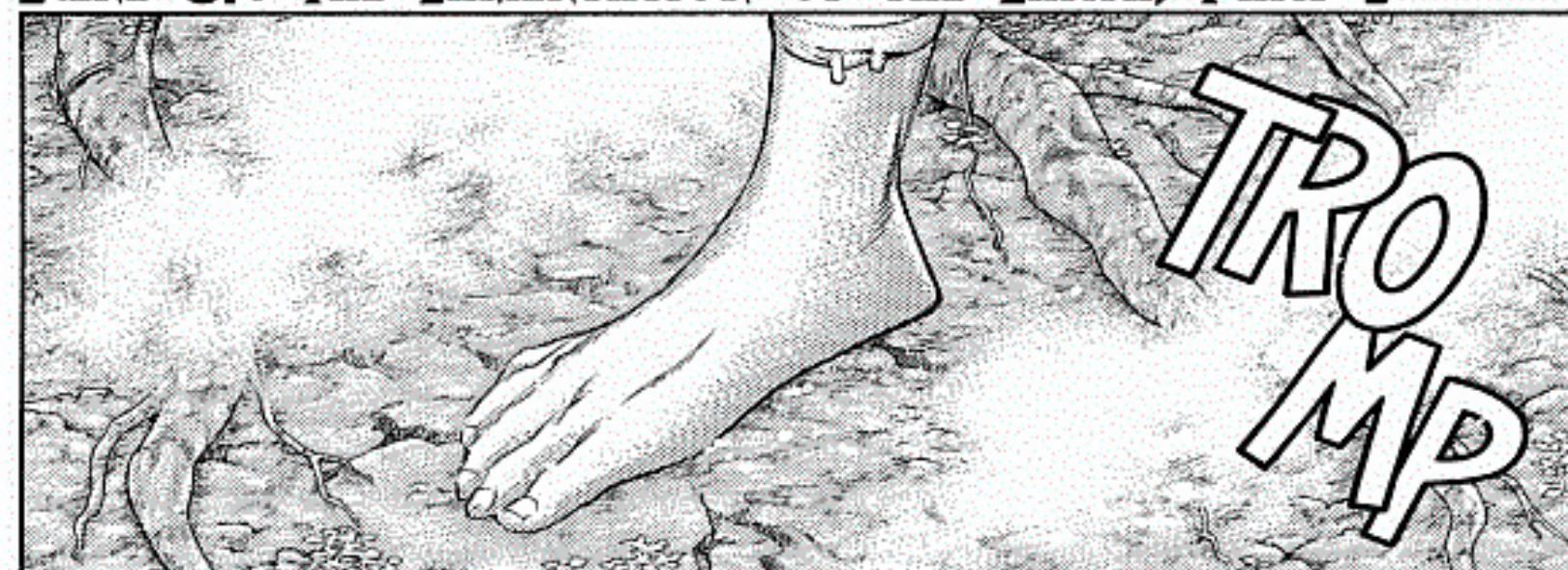
THE
DEMONS
...

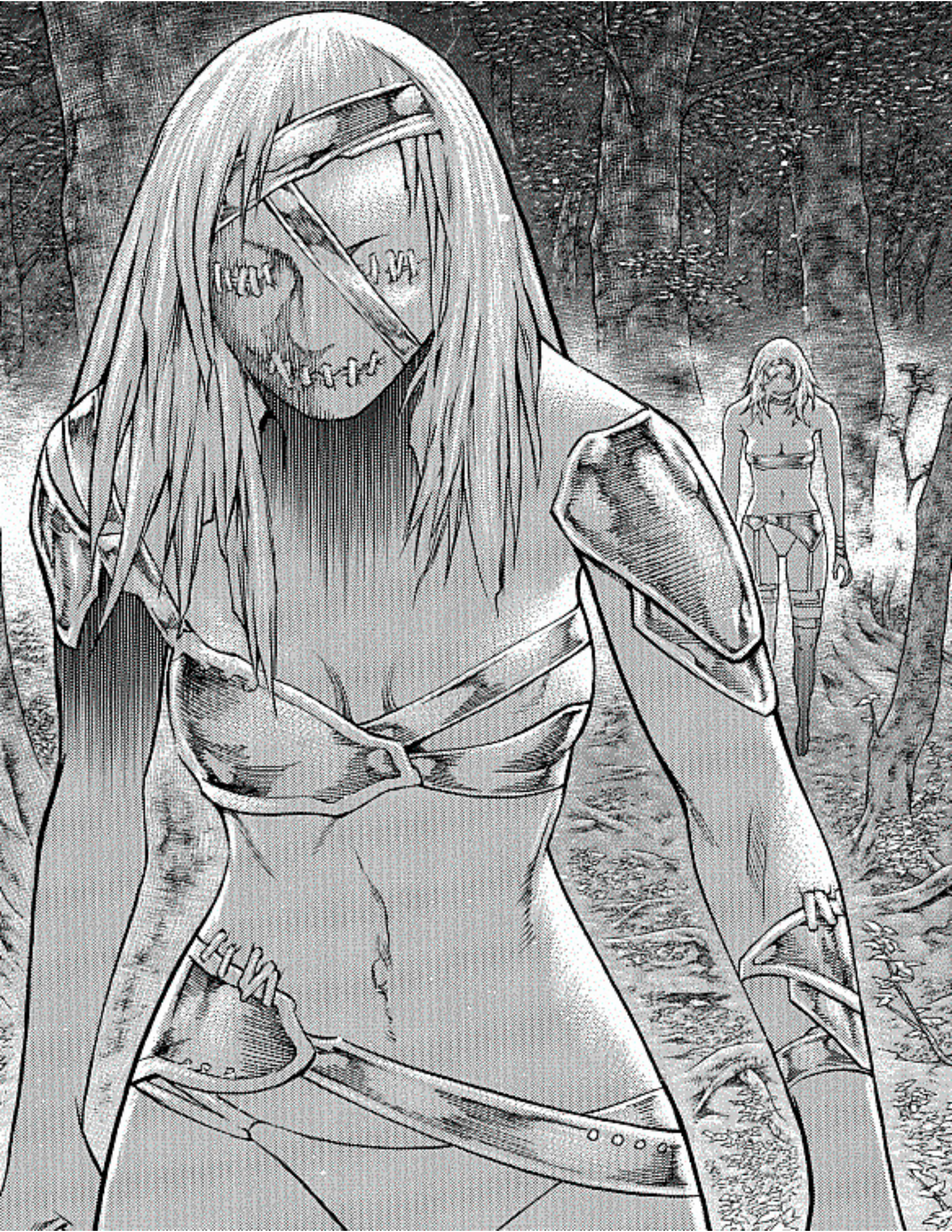
THEY'RE
BACK...



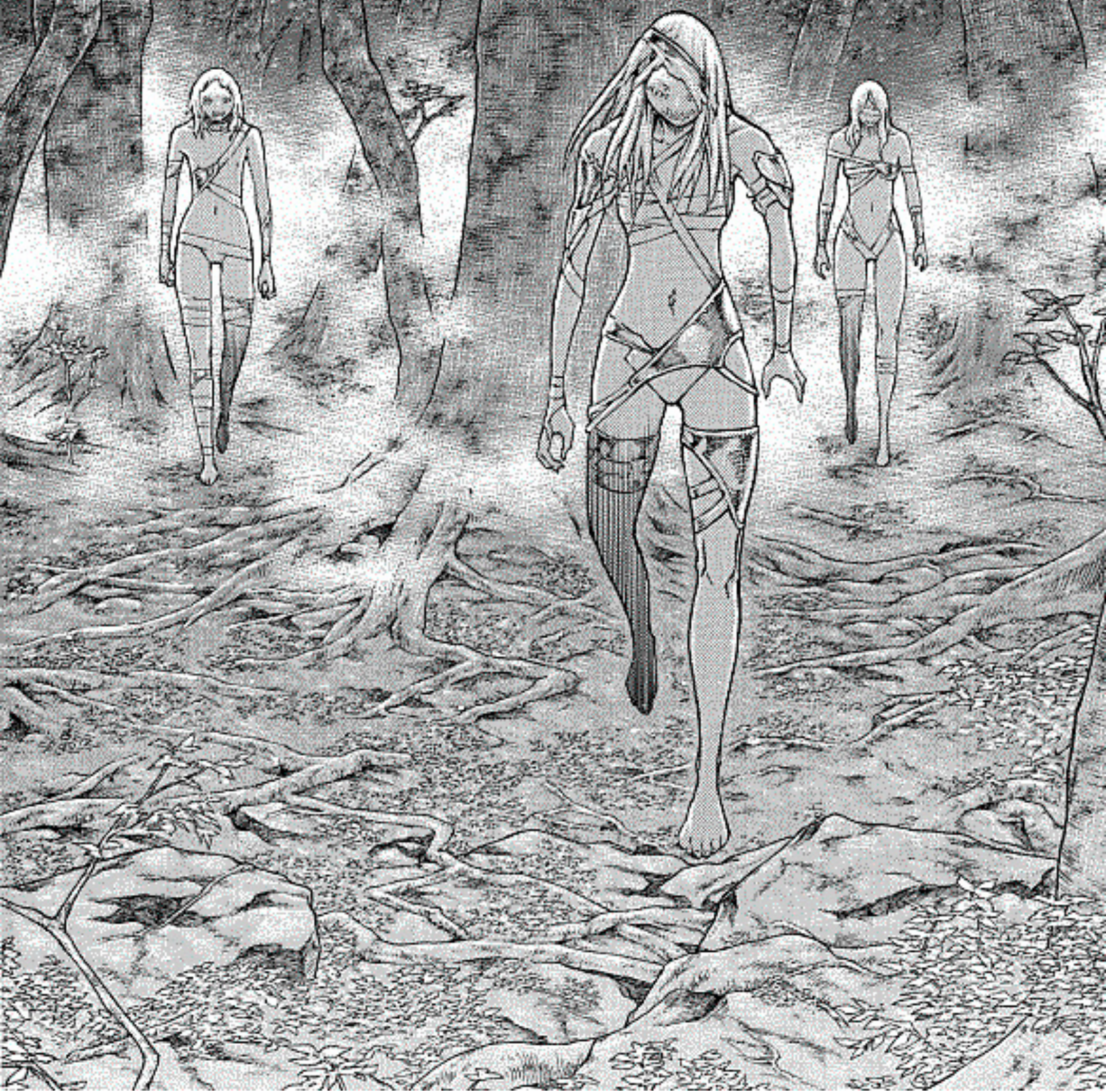


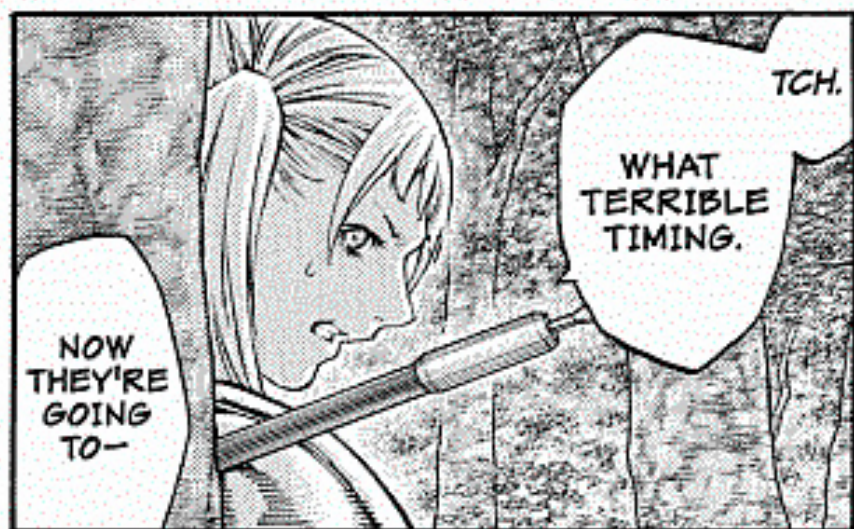
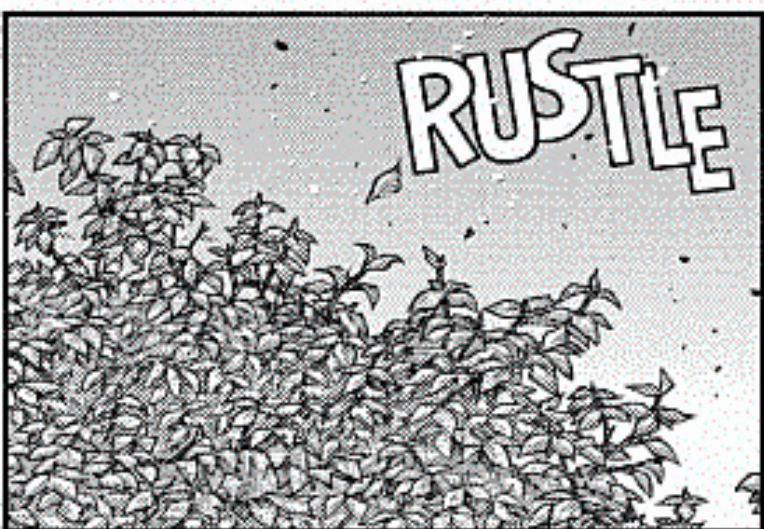
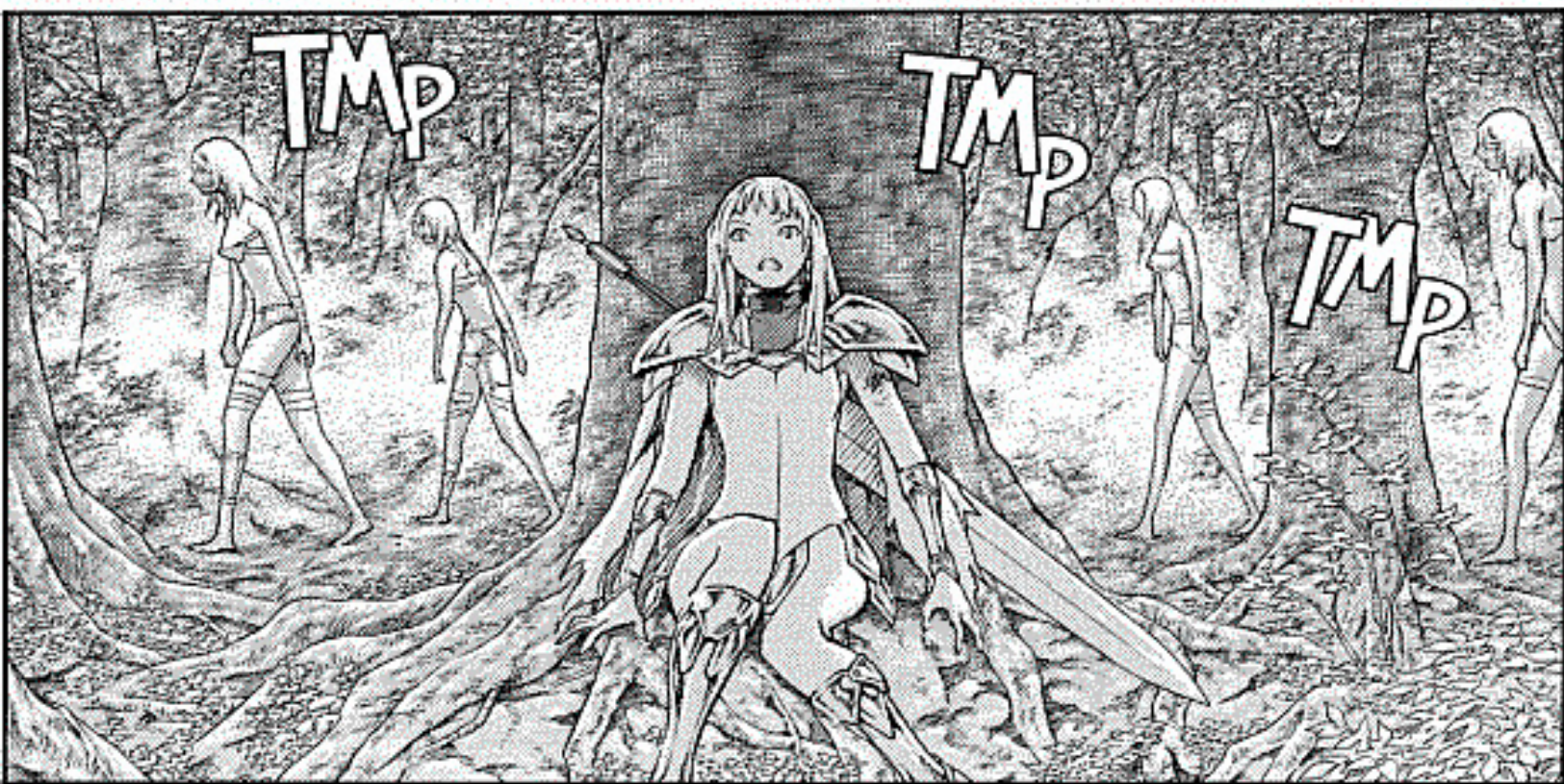
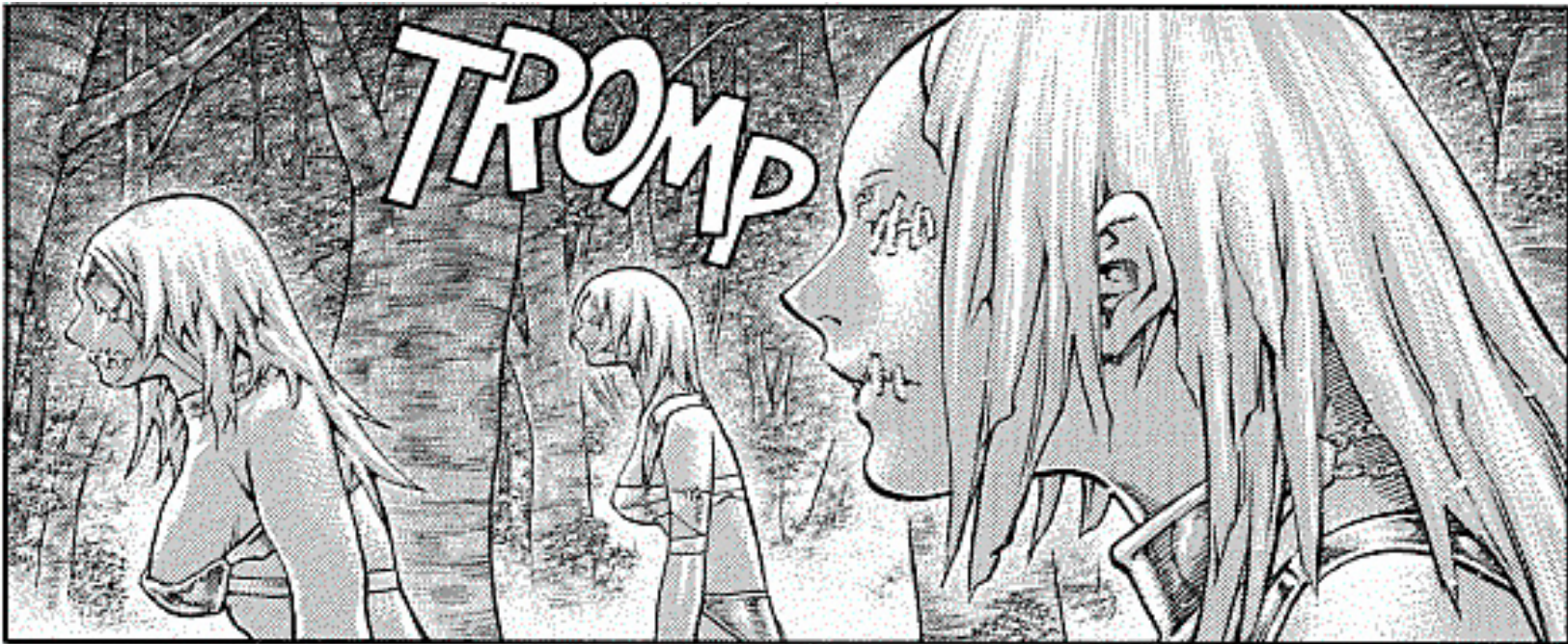
SCENE 87: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 5

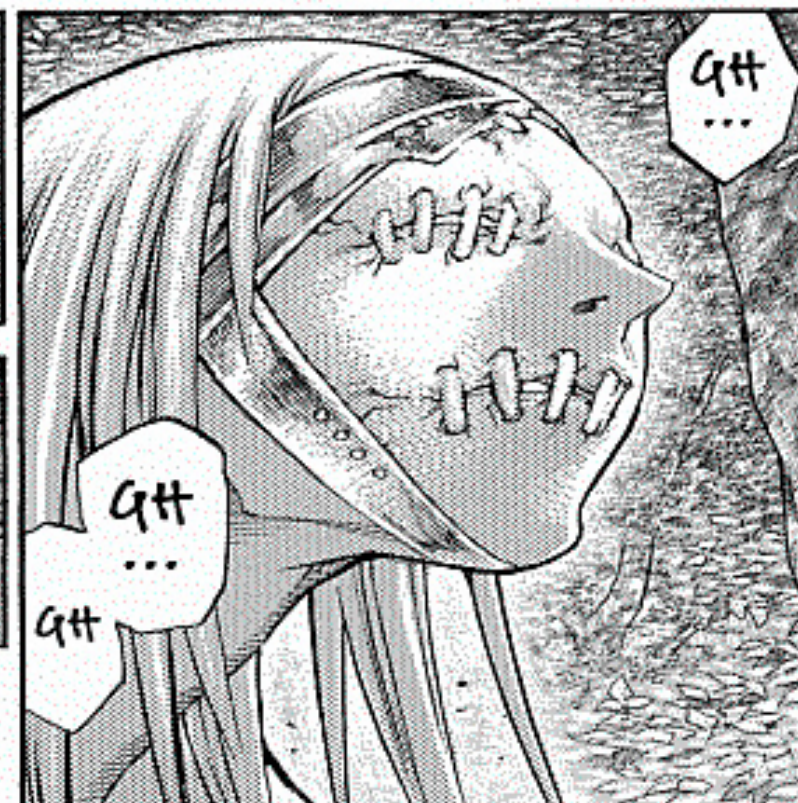
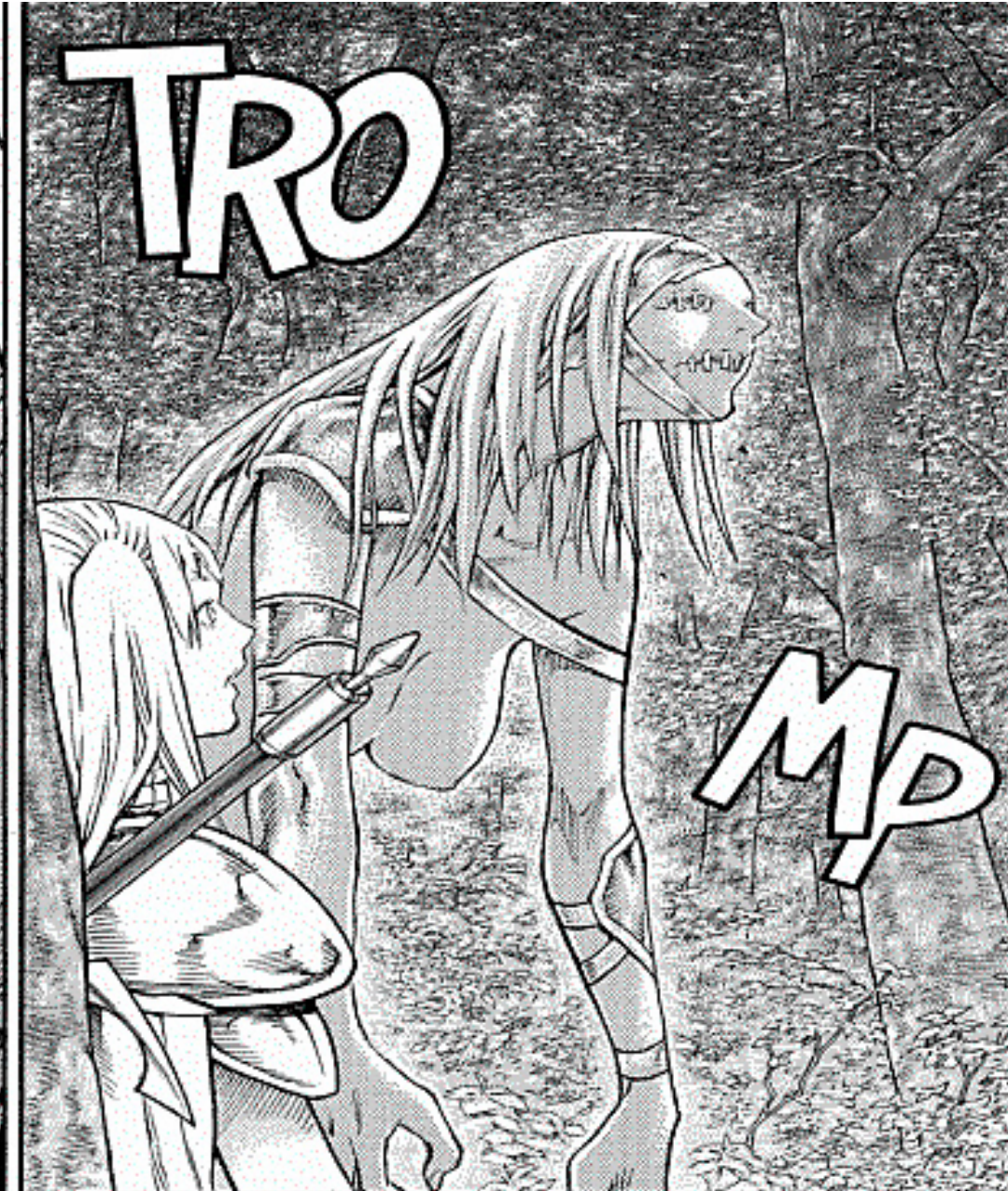
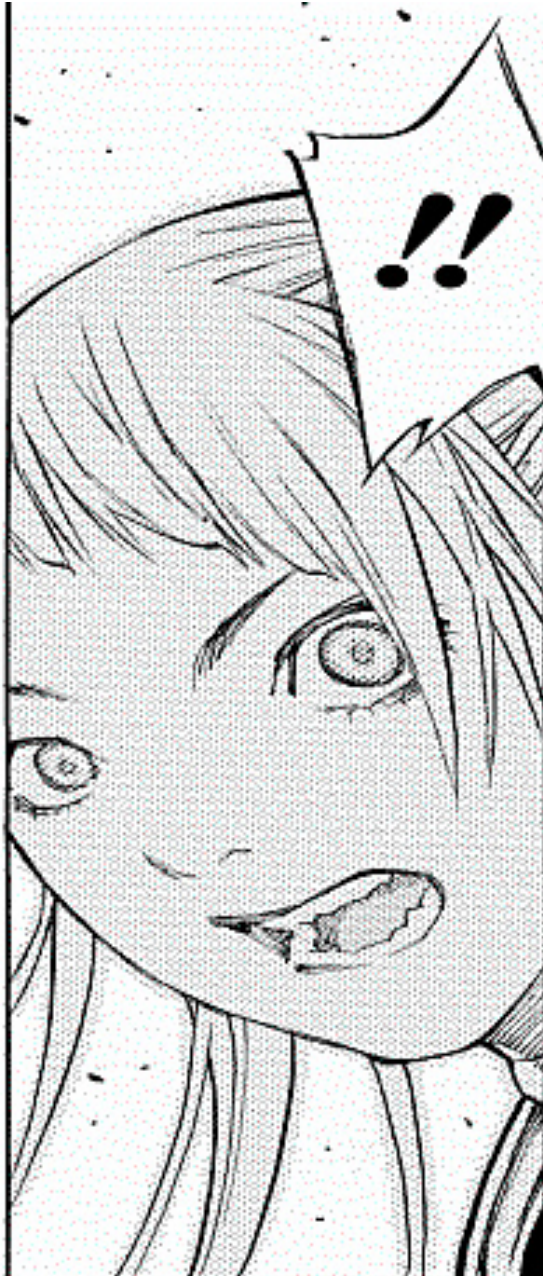


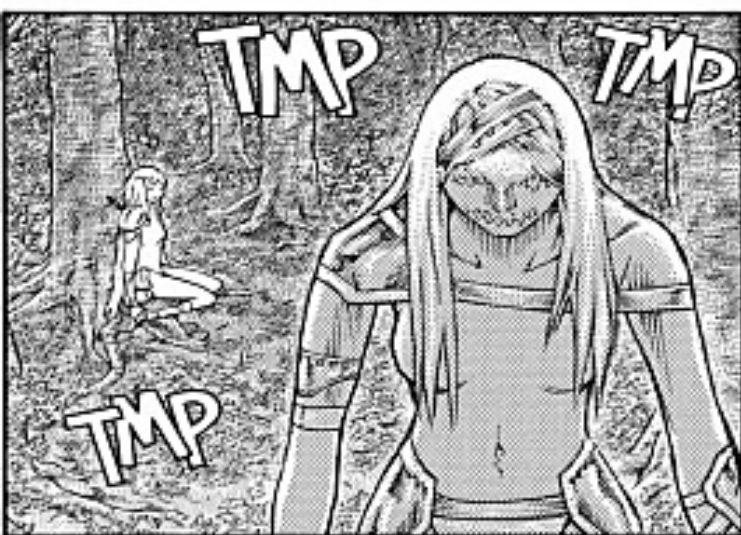


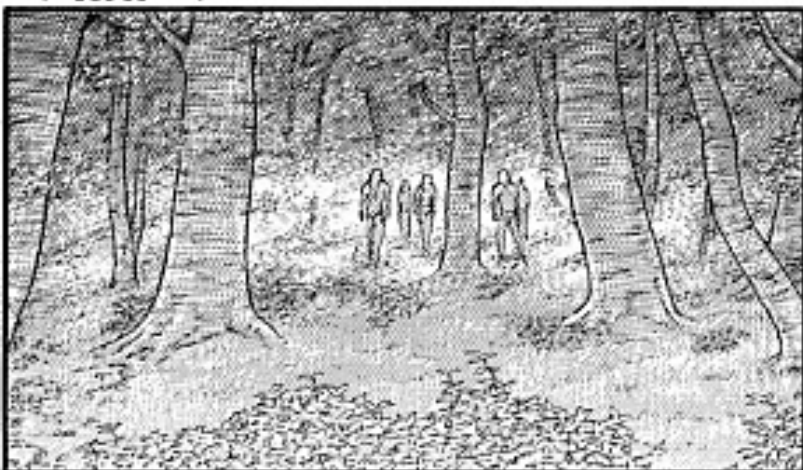
SCENE 87: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 5

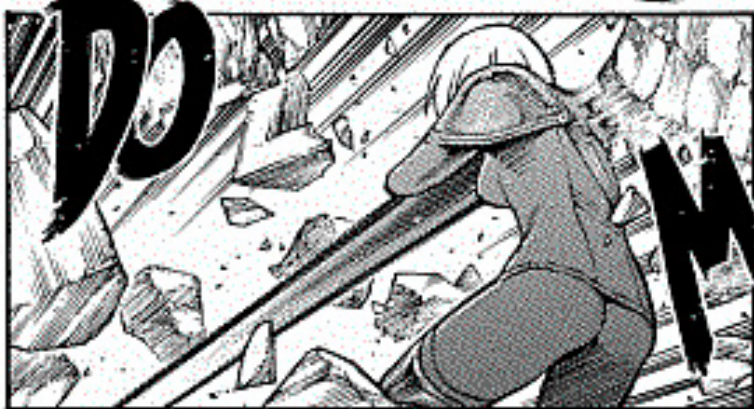
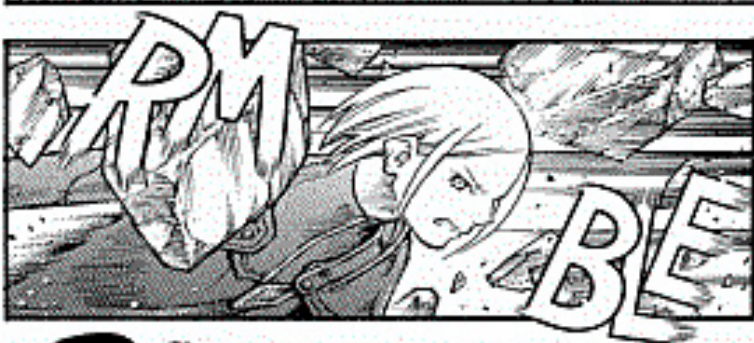
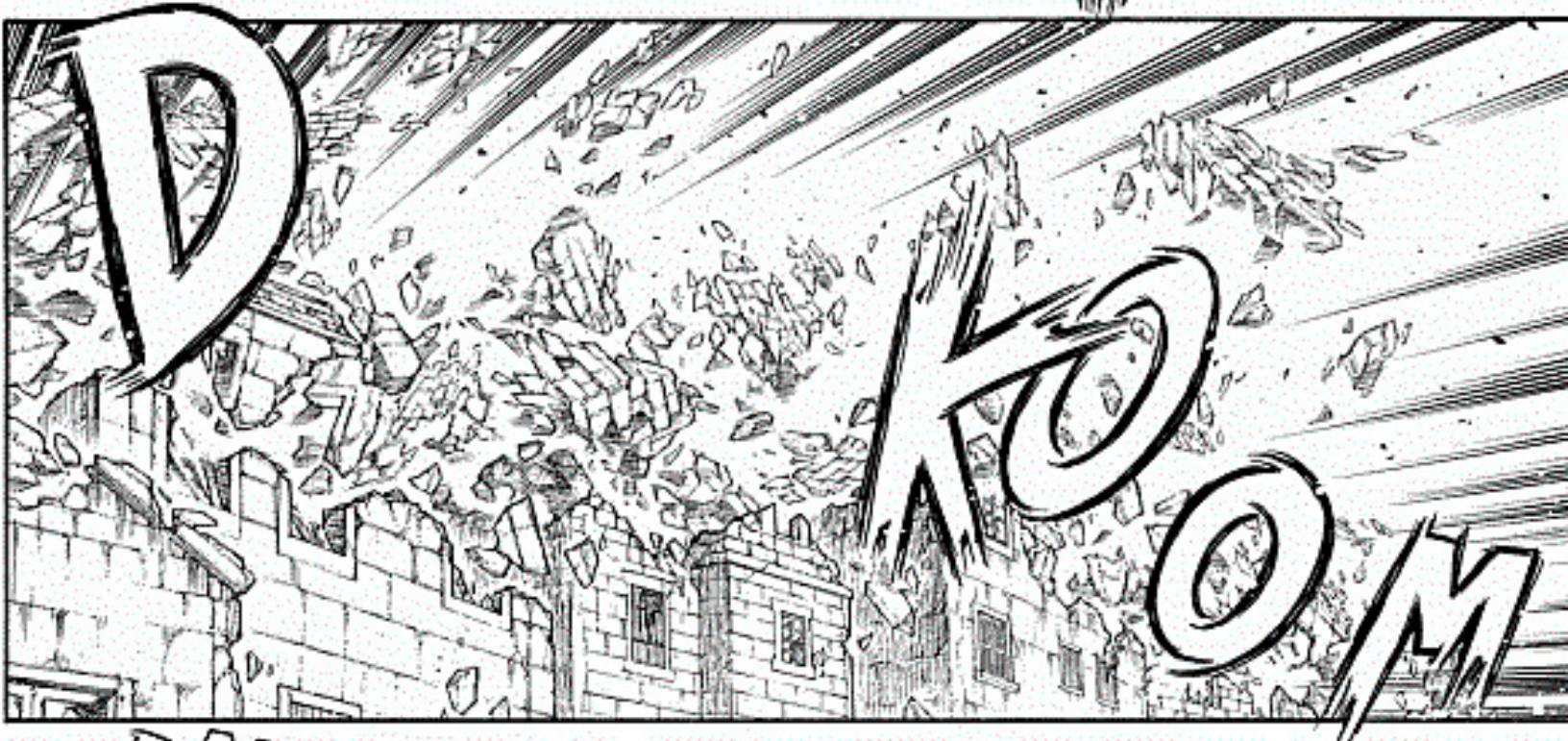
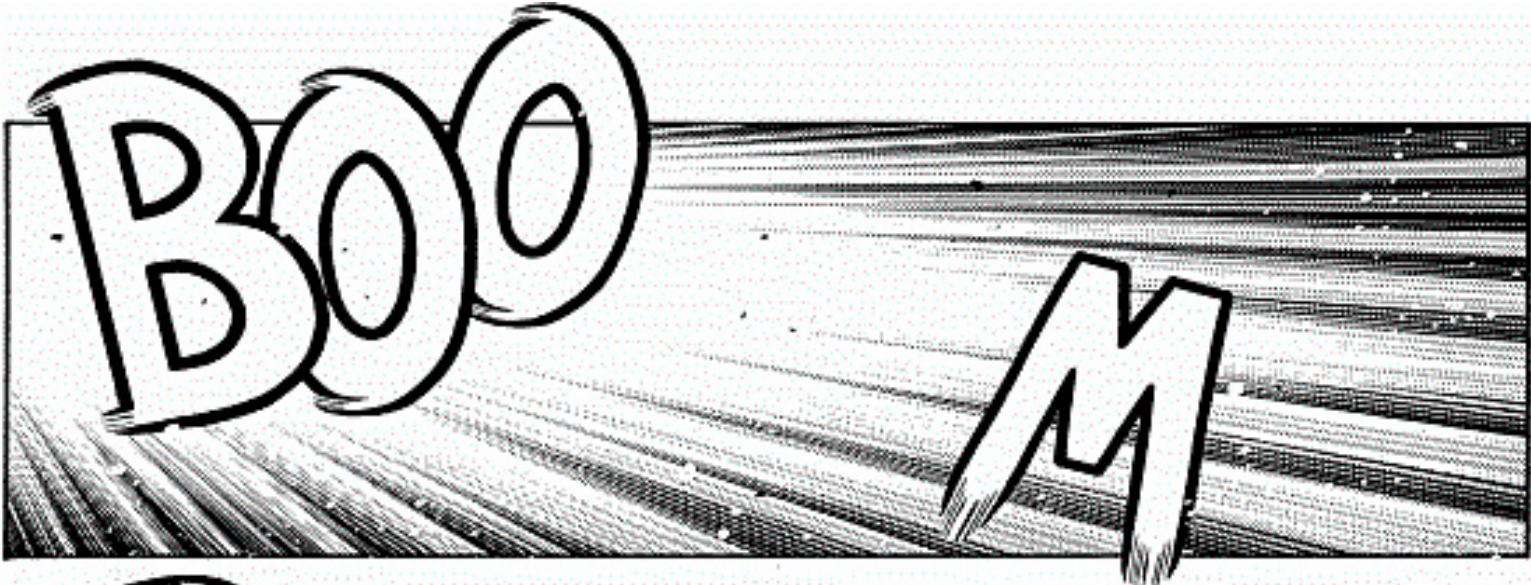


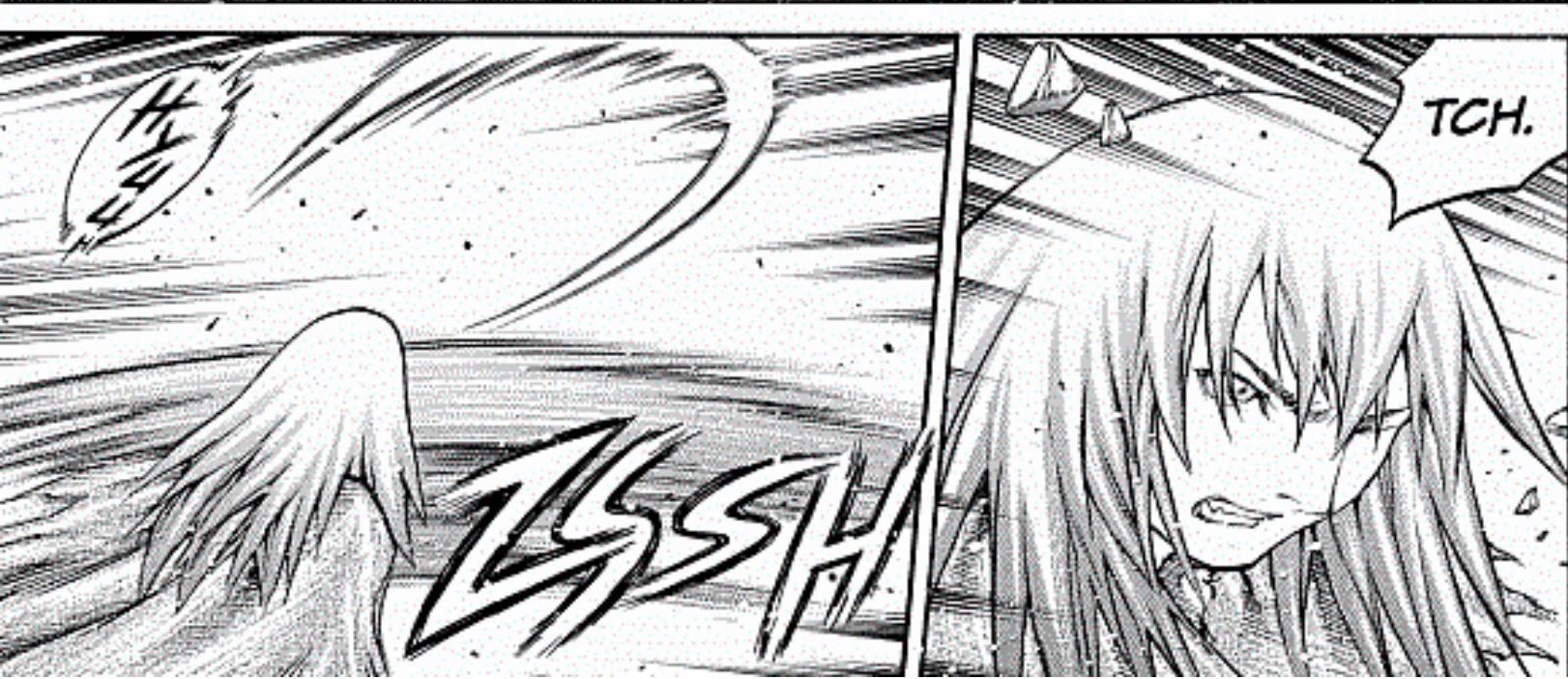
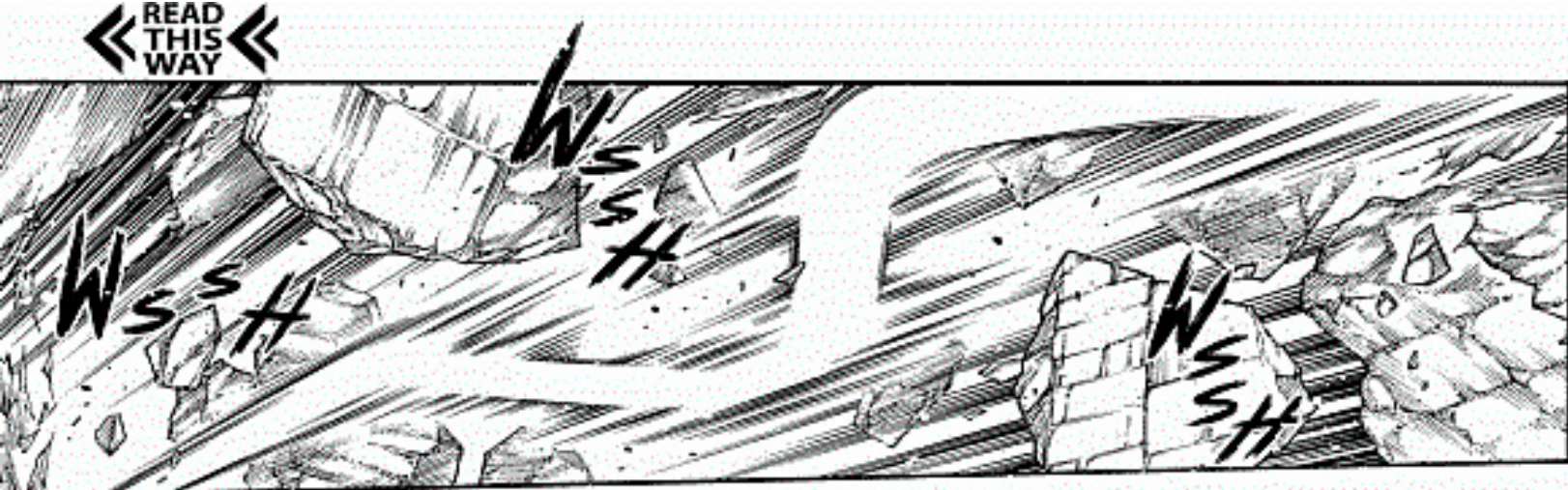


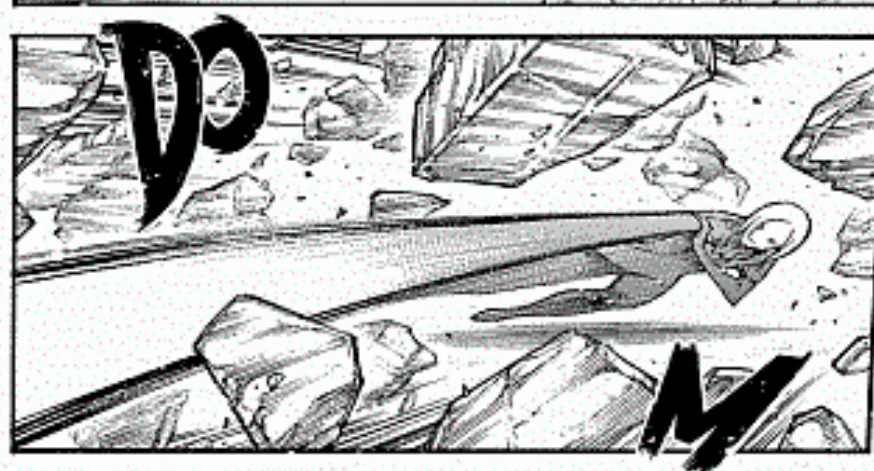
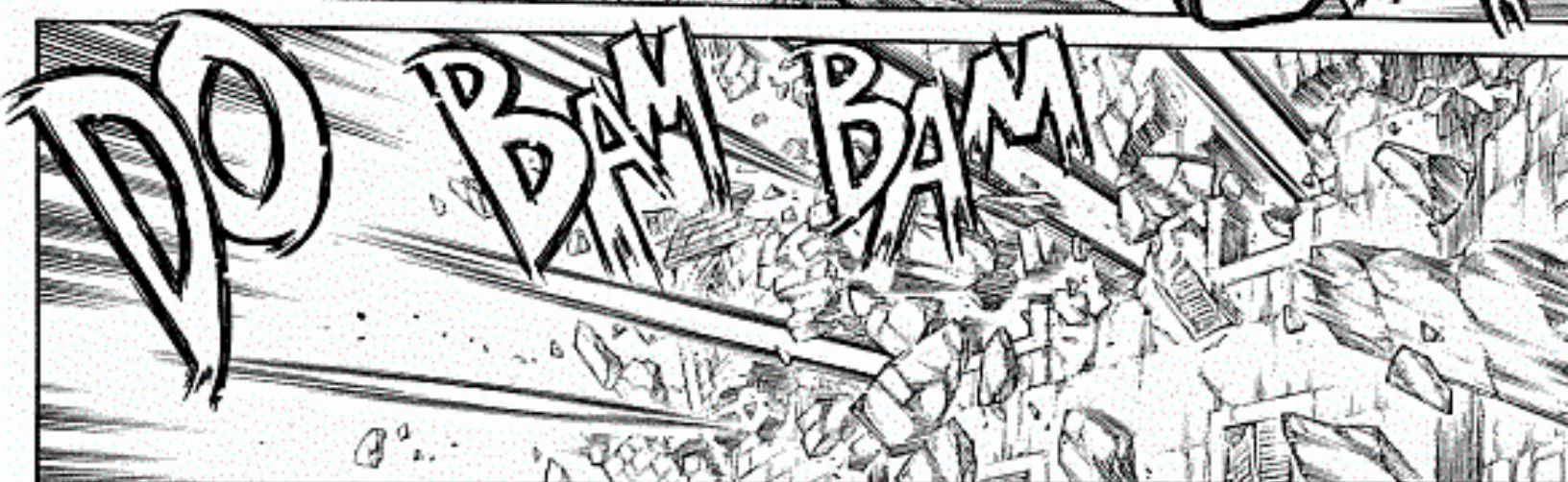








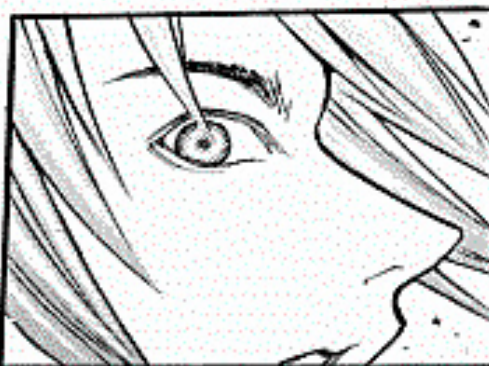
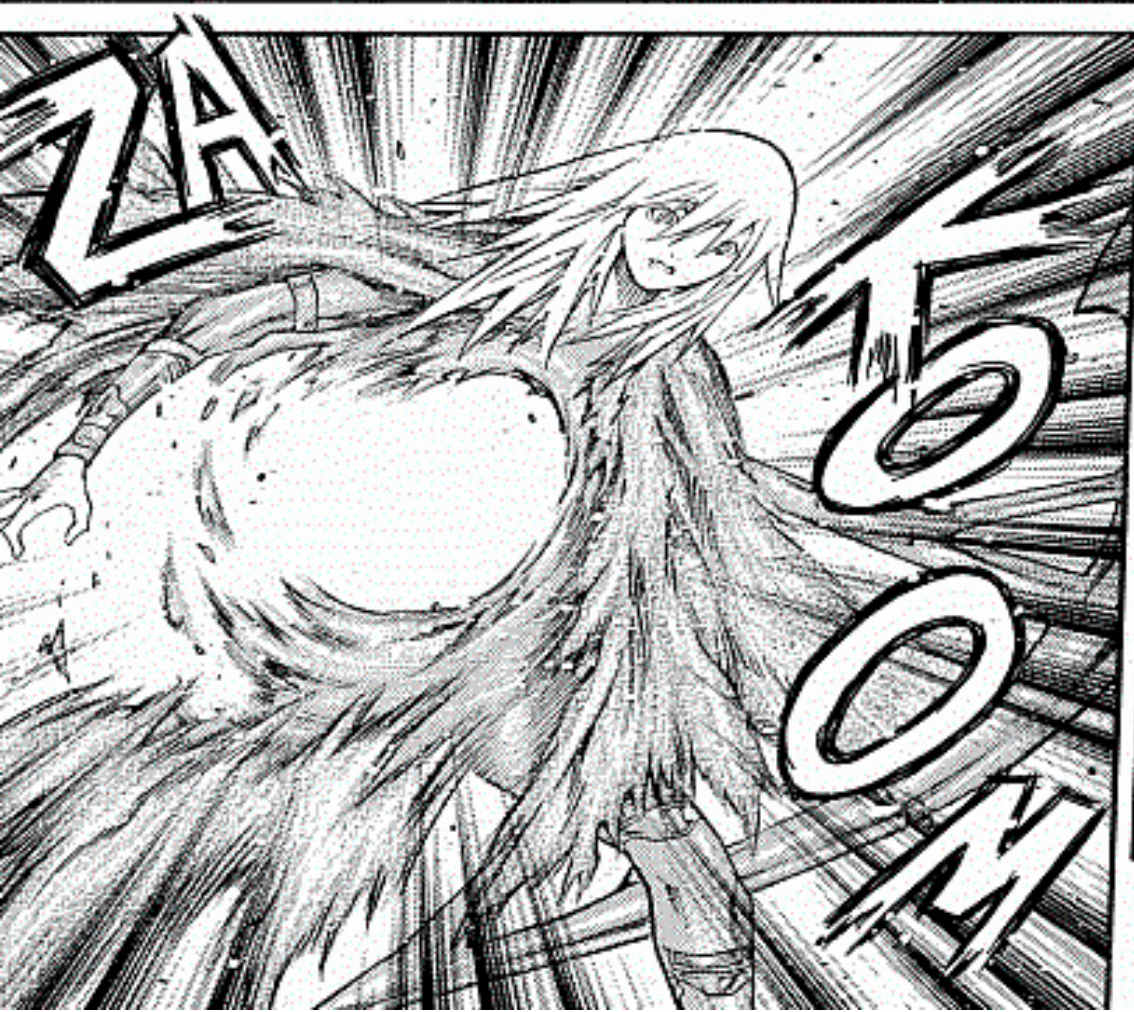




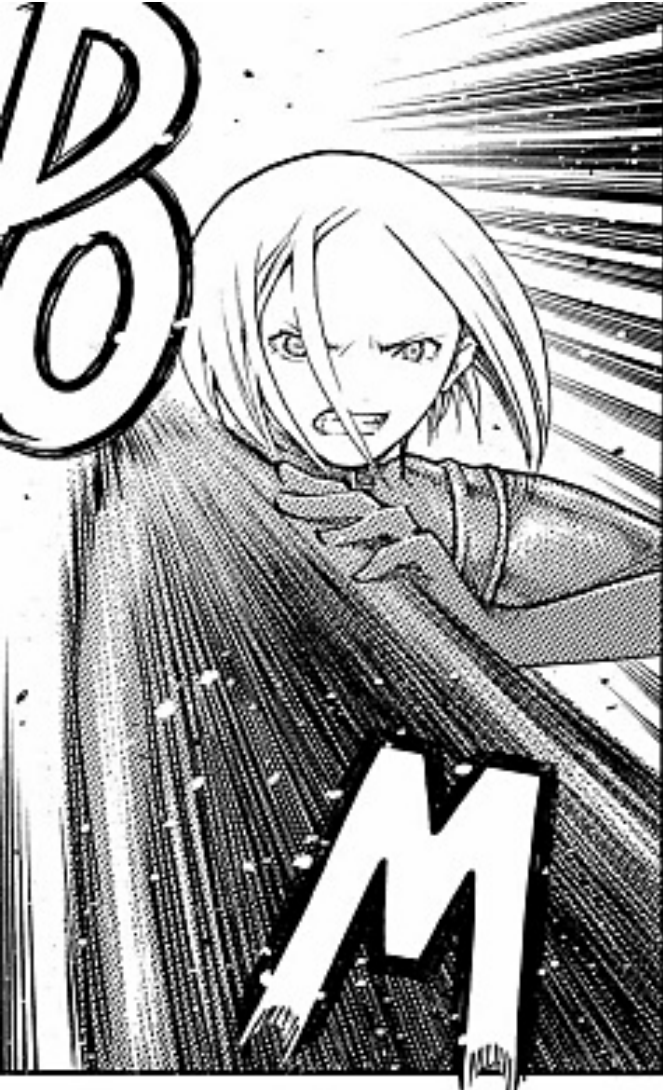


SNEAKING
AROUND
WITH YOUR
AURA
HIDDEN...

LITTLE
WORM...

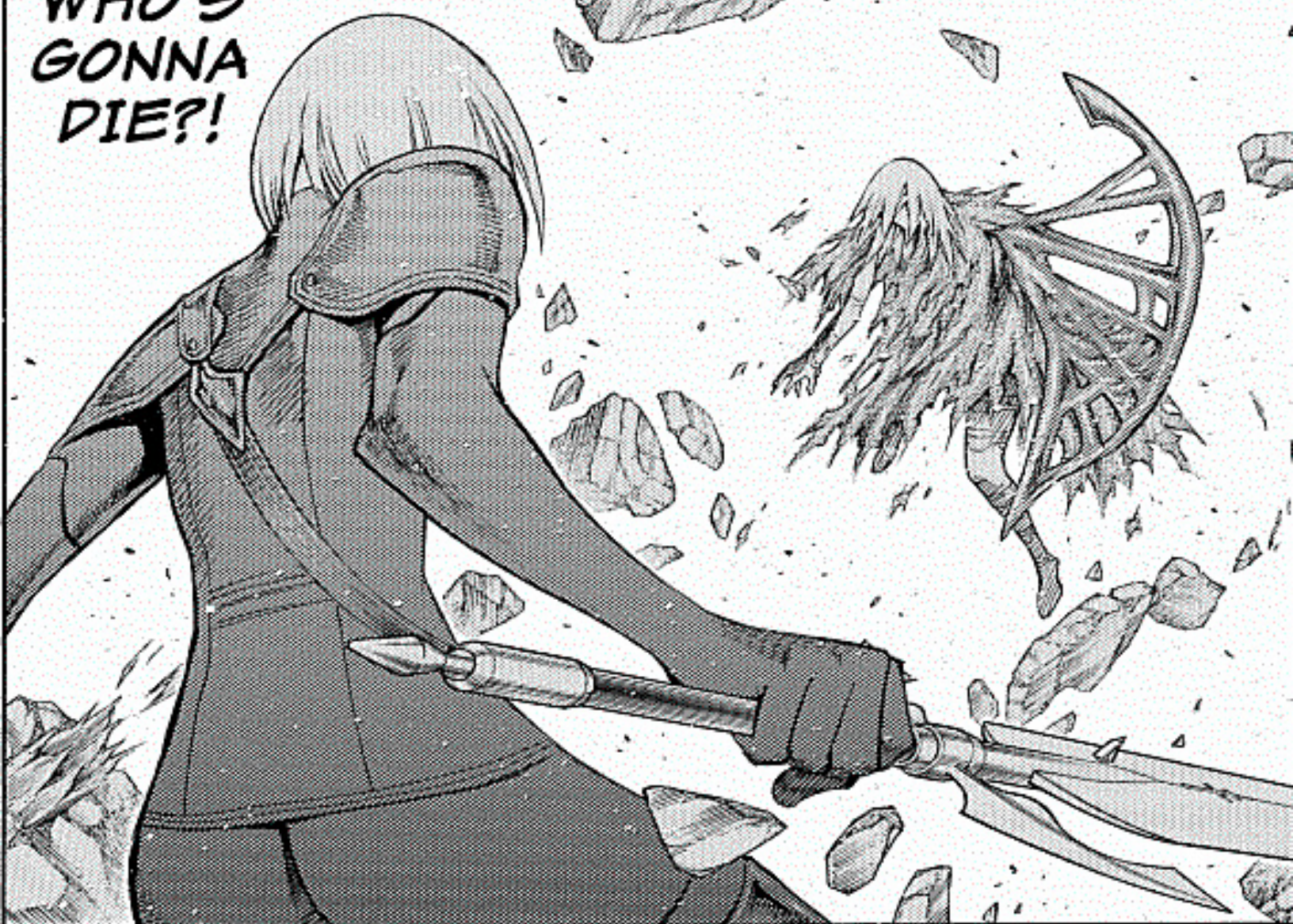






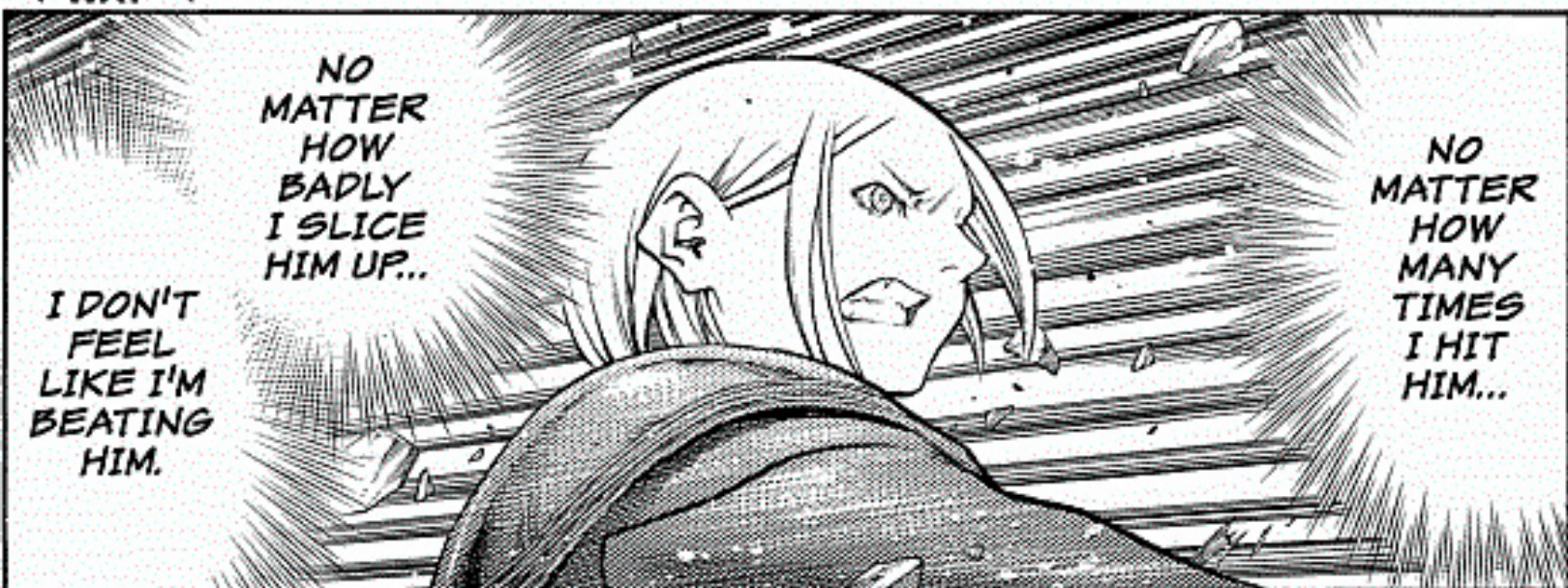
...I'M
THE
ONE
WHO'S
GONNA
DIE?!

AFTER
ALL
THIS...



GH...

GUAH!



I DON'T
FEEL
LIKE I'M
BEATING
HIM.

NO
MATTER
HOW
BADLY
I SLICE
HIM UP...

NO
MATTER
HOW
MANY
TIMES
I HIT
HIM...



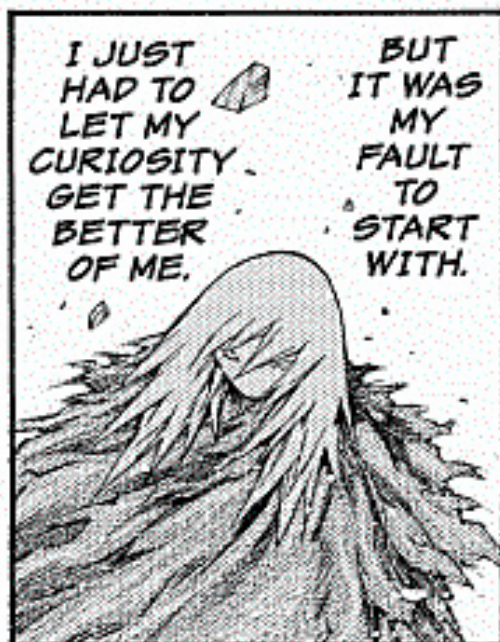
...THE MORE
I'M CERTAIN
IT'S JUST
STRENGTHENING
HIS OWN,
AND THAT
HE'S GOING
TO THRUST
IT RIGHT
THROUGH
MY BODY.

INSTEAD,
THE
MORE
I DRIVE
MY
BLADE
INTO
HIM...



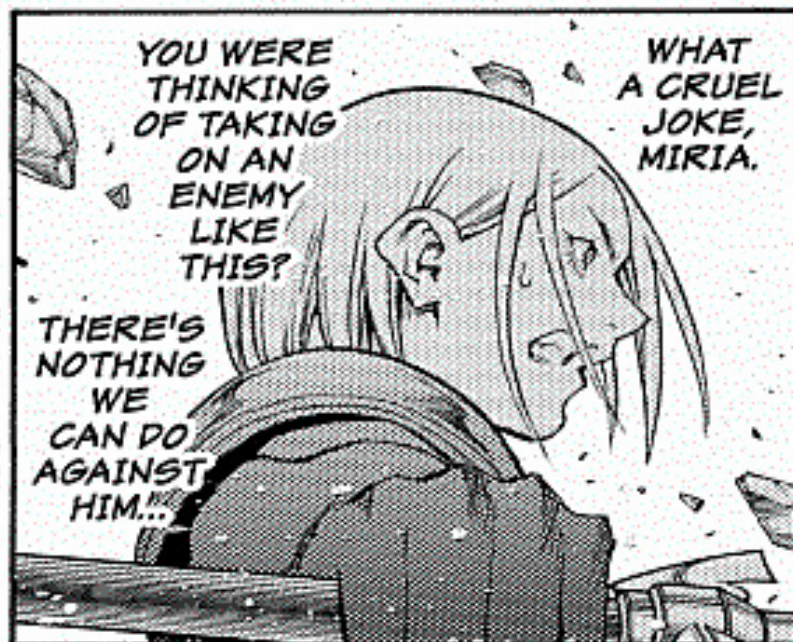
SORRY...

...MIRIA.



I JUST
HAD TO
LET MY
CURIOSITY
GET THE
BETTER
OF ME.

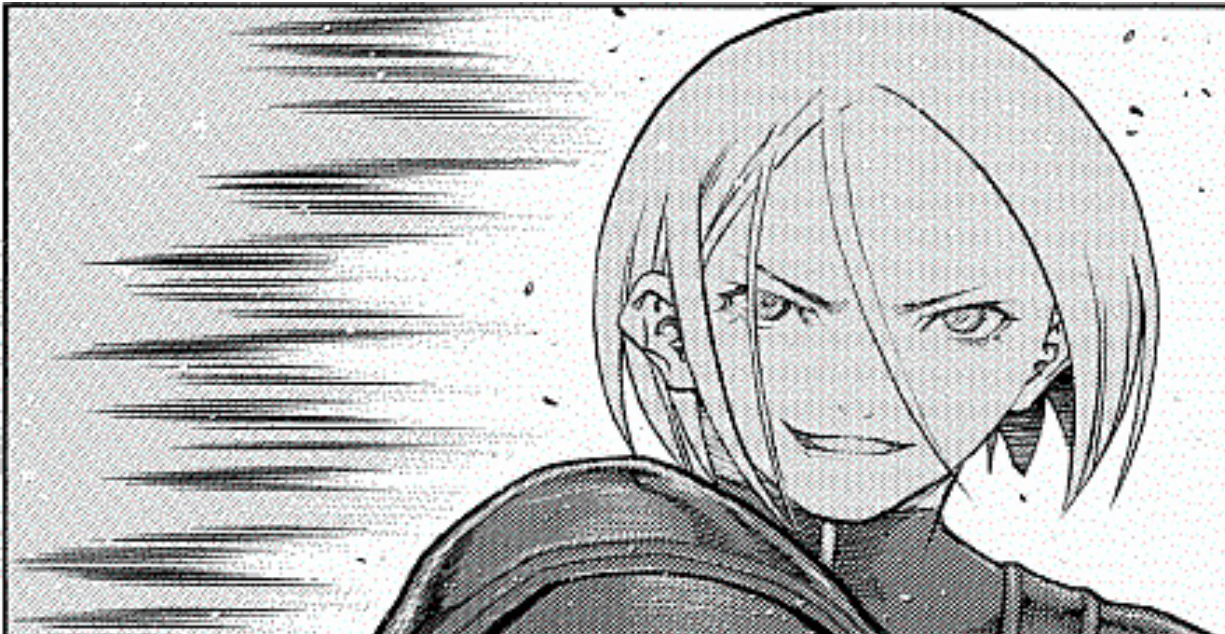
BUT
IT WAS
MY
FAULT
TO
START
WITH.



YOU WERE
THINKING
OF TAKING
ON AN
ENEMY
LIKE
THIS?

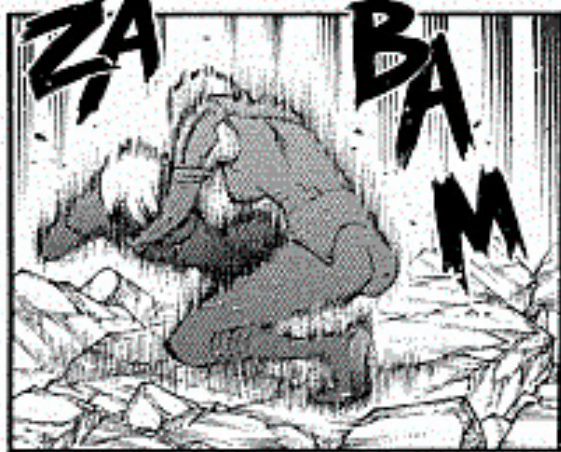
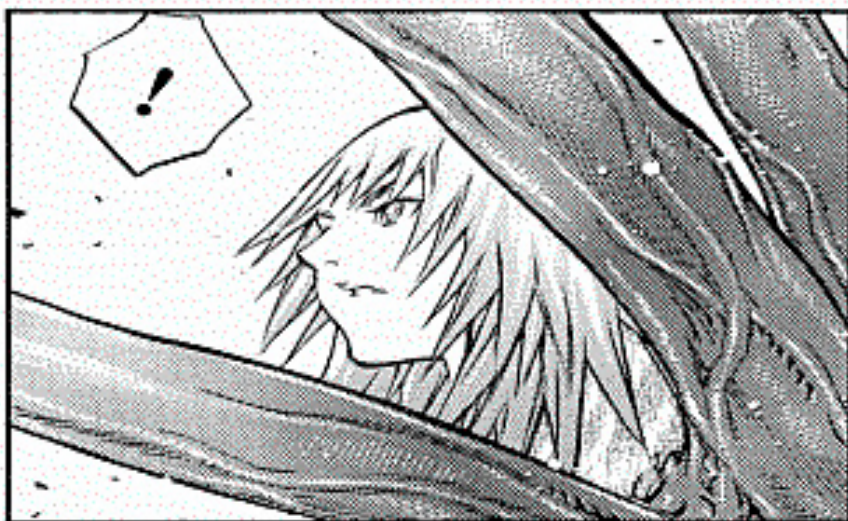
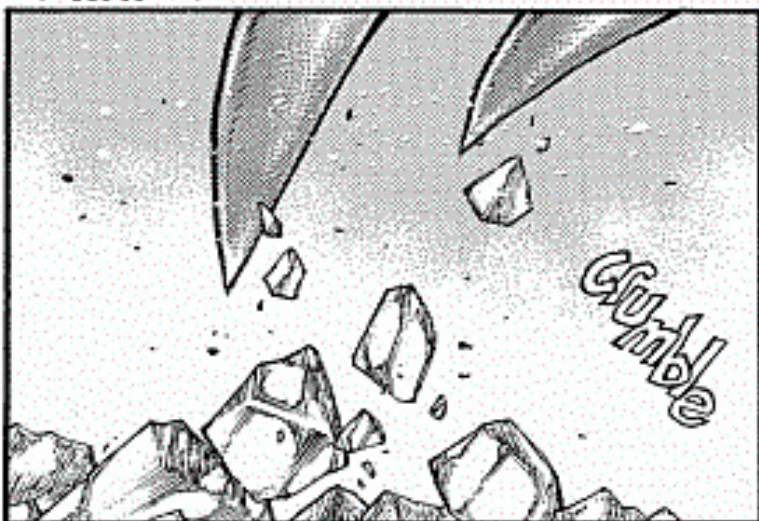
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE
CAN DO
AGAINST
HIM...

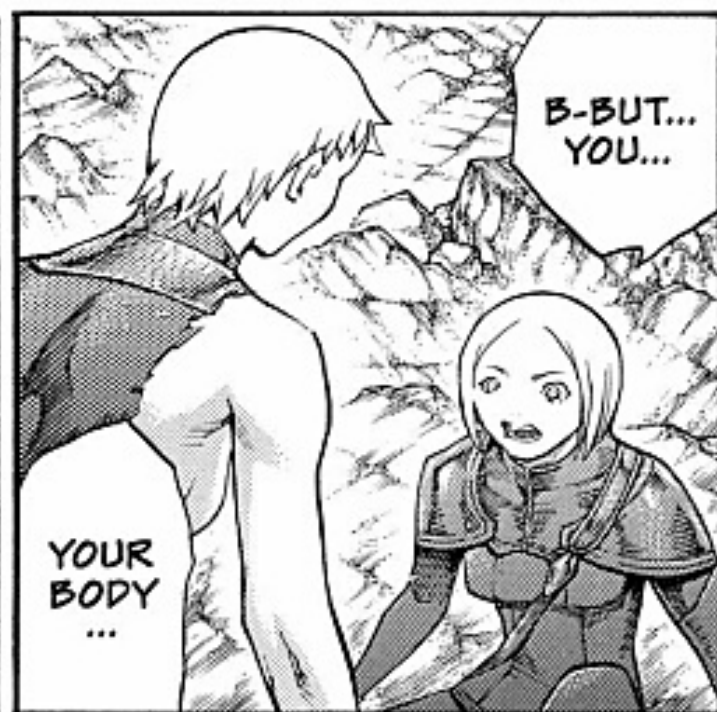
WHAT
A CRUEL
JOKE,
MIRIA.

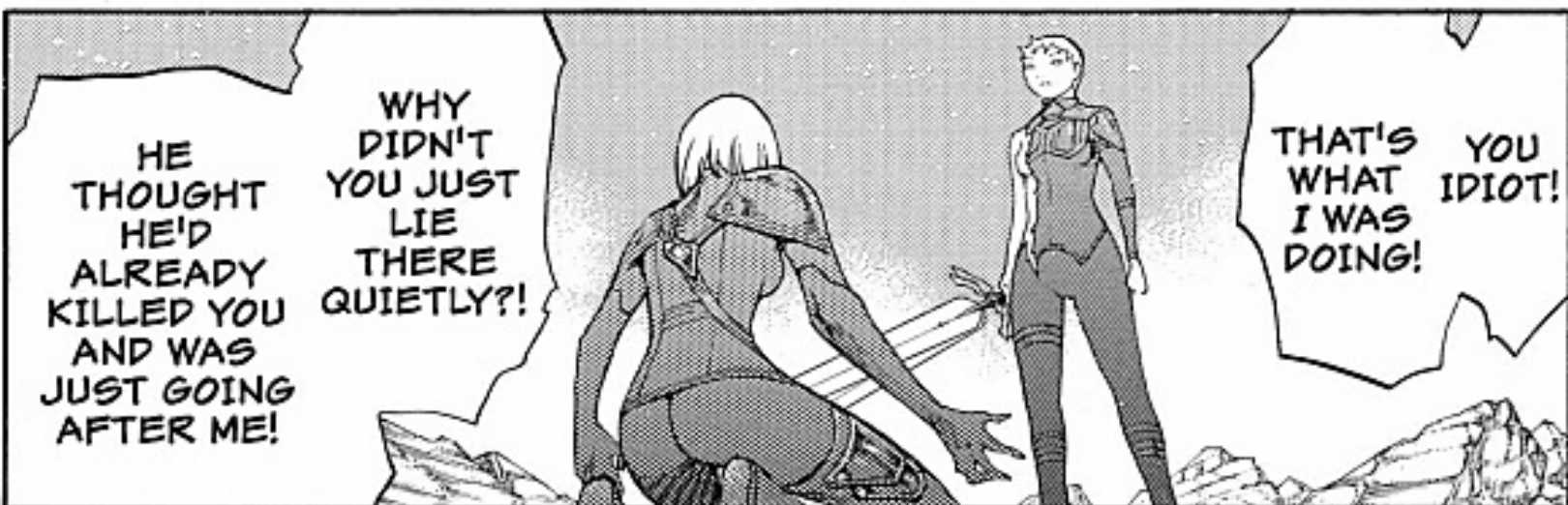
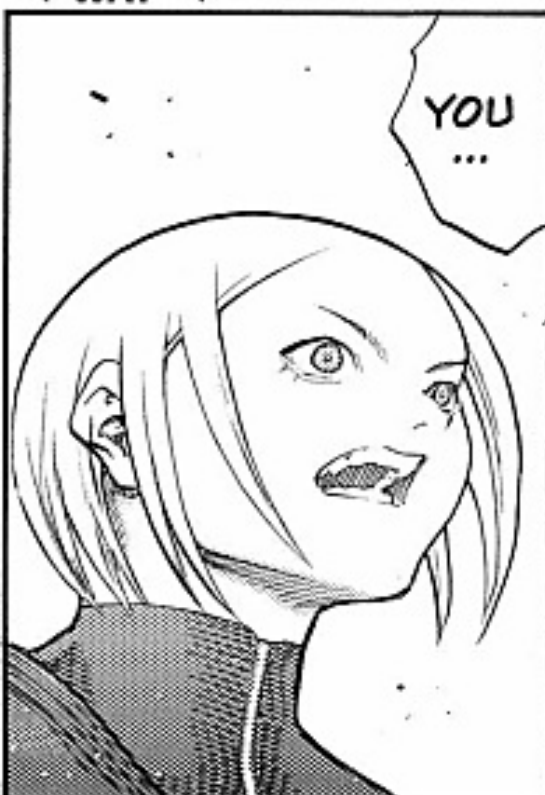


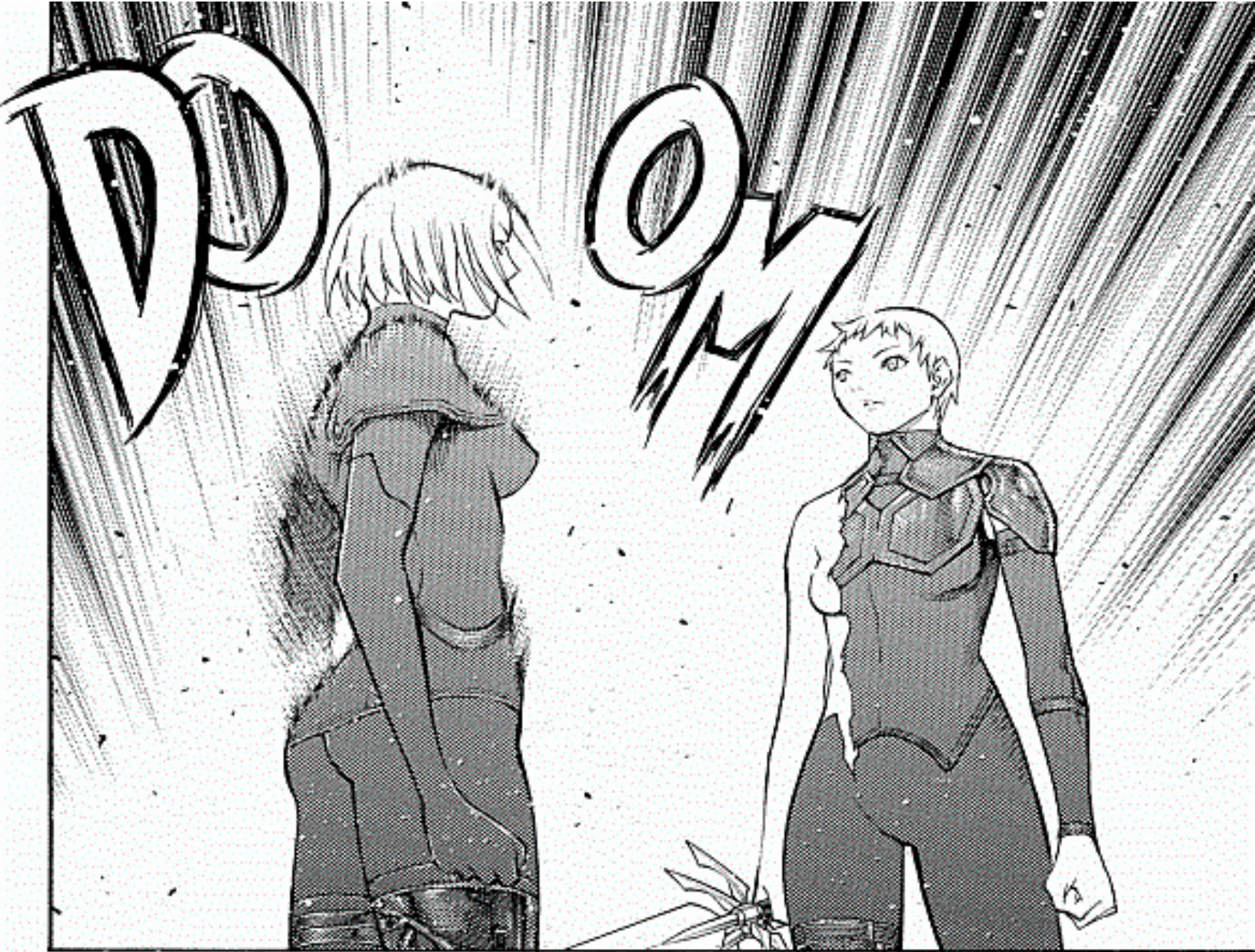
LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'RE
GONNA
LOSE A
COUPLE
MORE
TEAM-
MATES...











YOU
REALLY
ARE
STUPID.

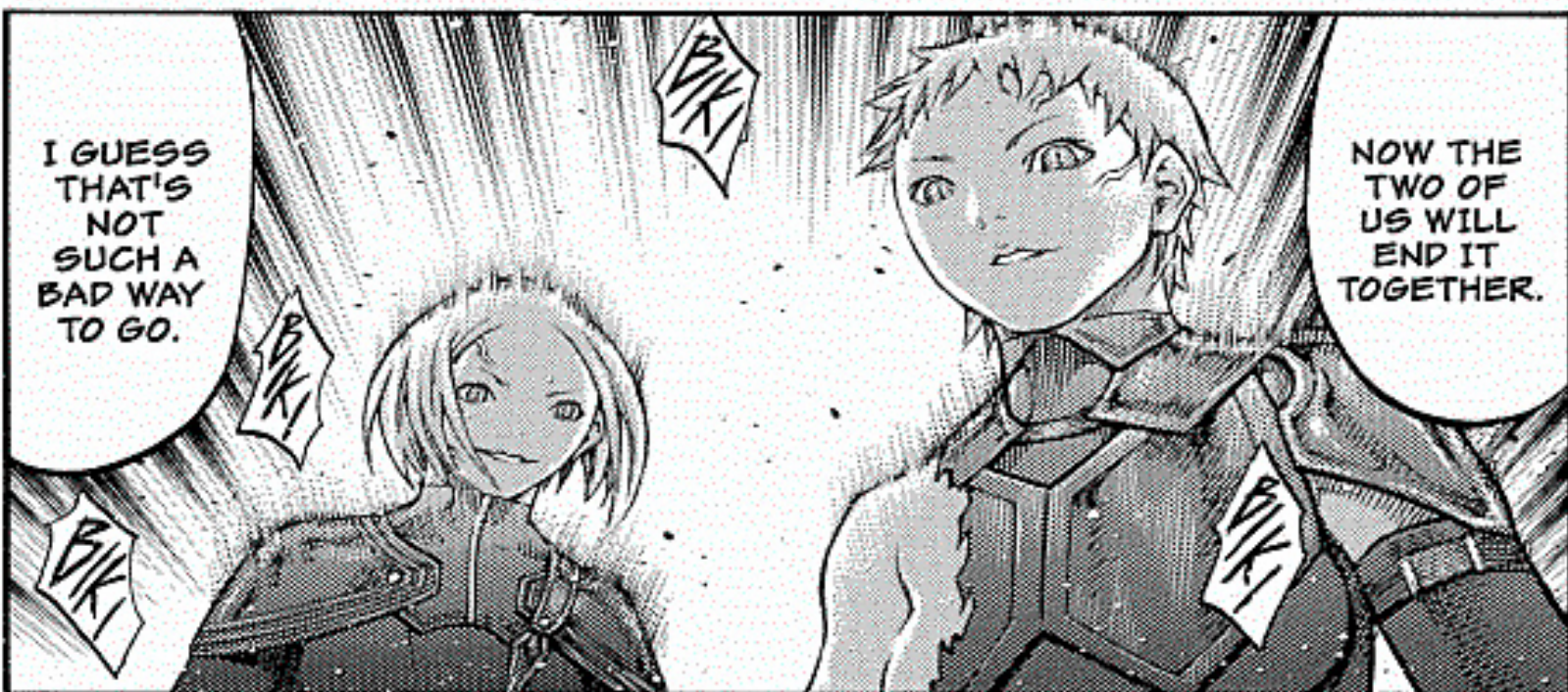
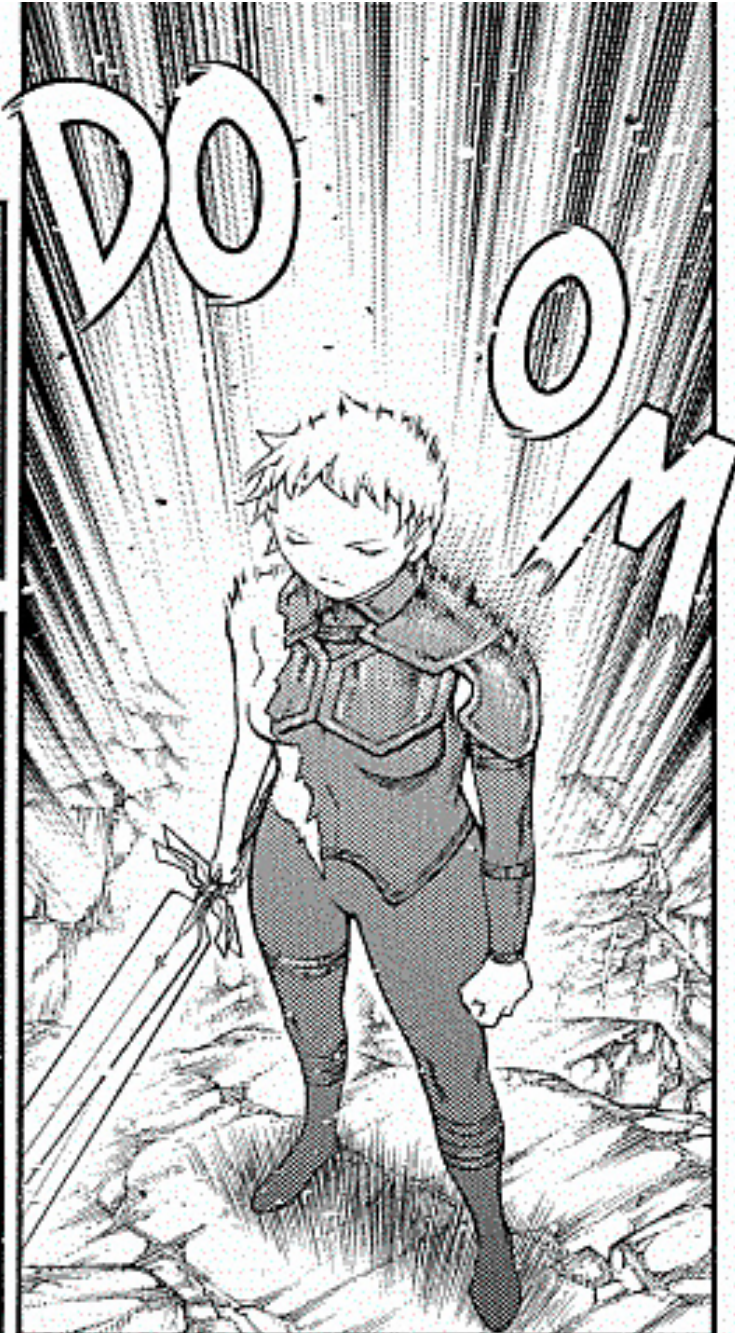
...

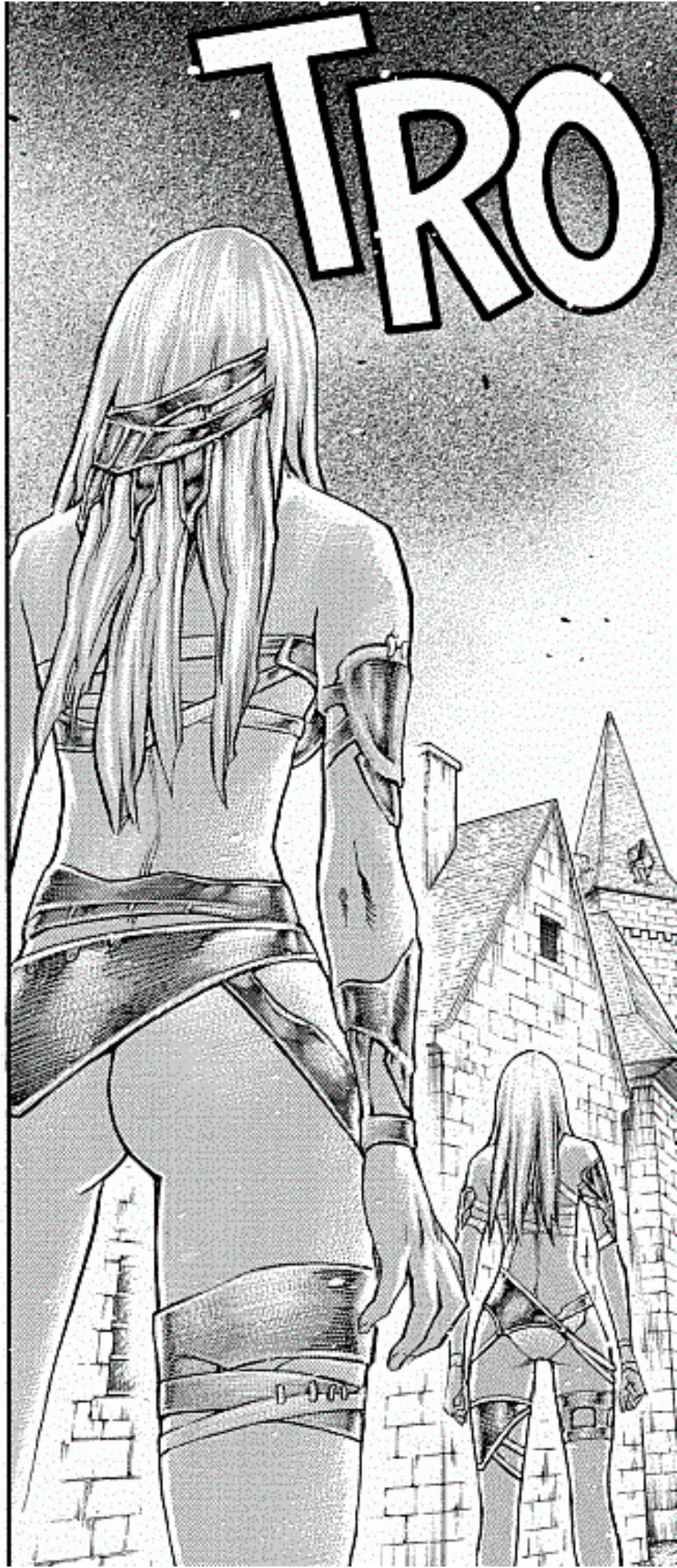
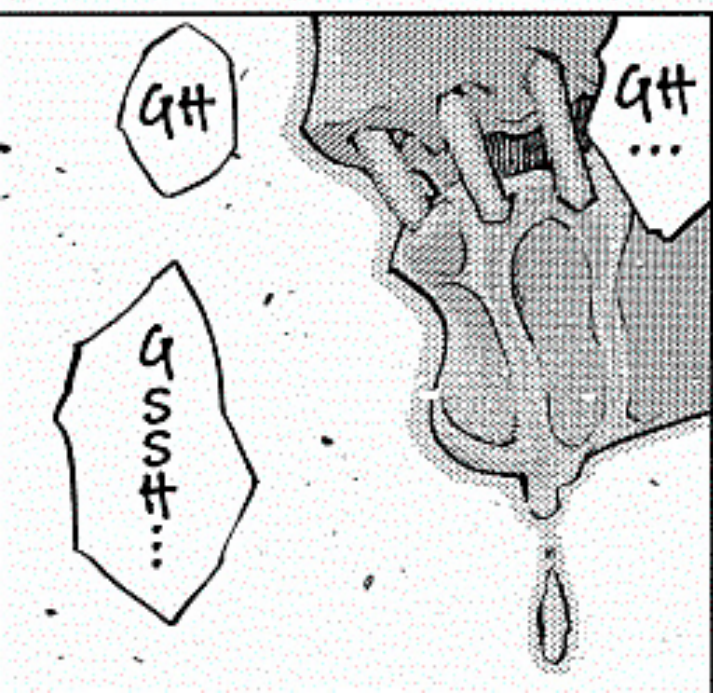
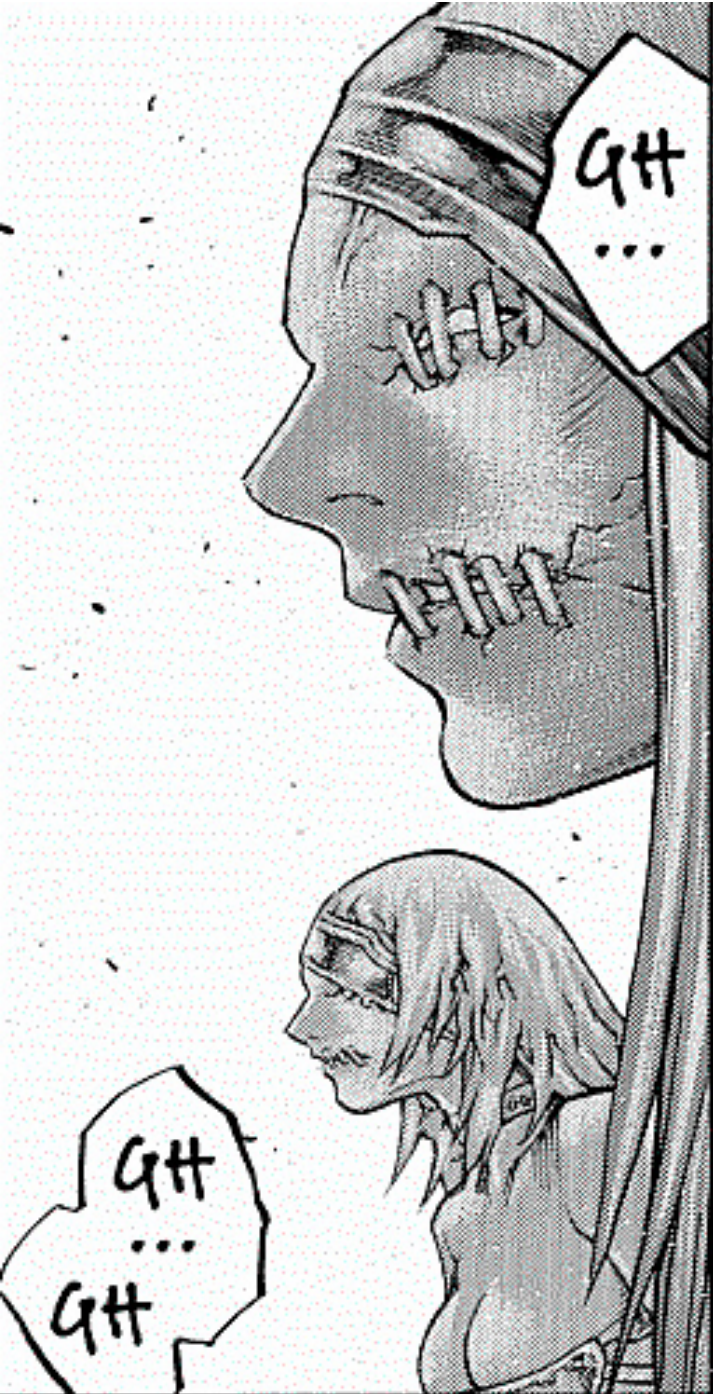
I GUESS
WE'RE
JUST
STUCK
WITH
EACH
OTHER.

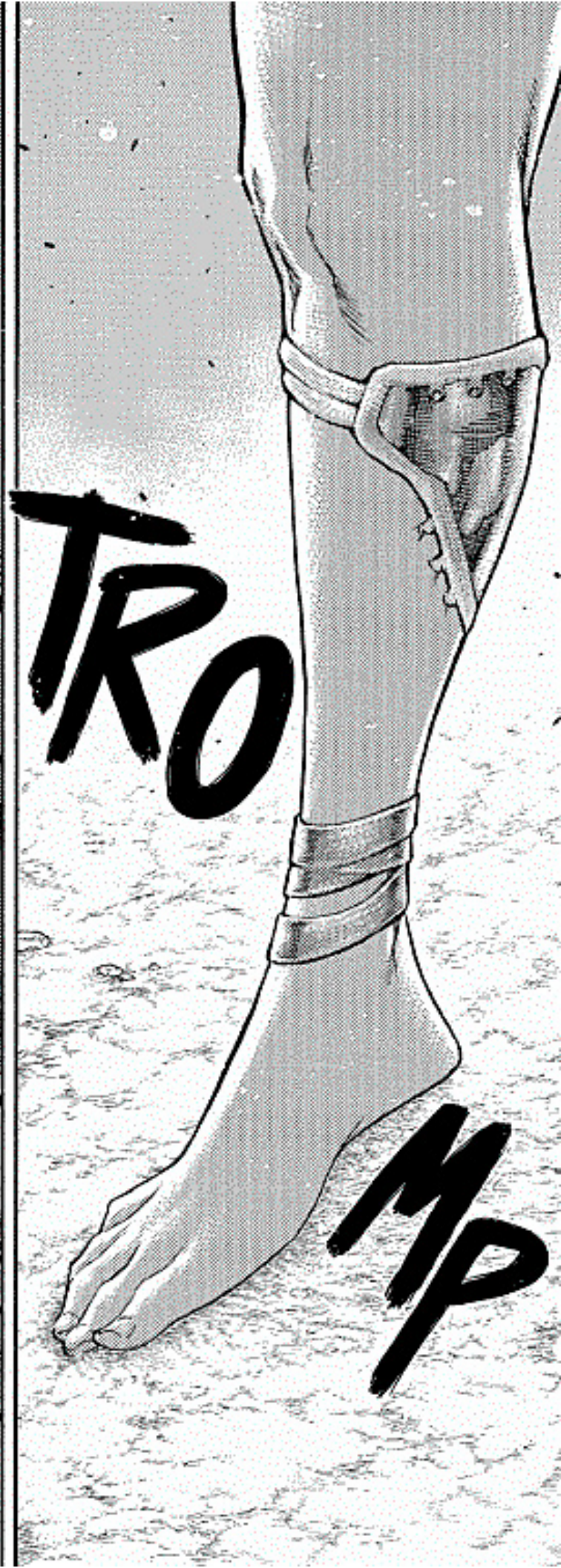
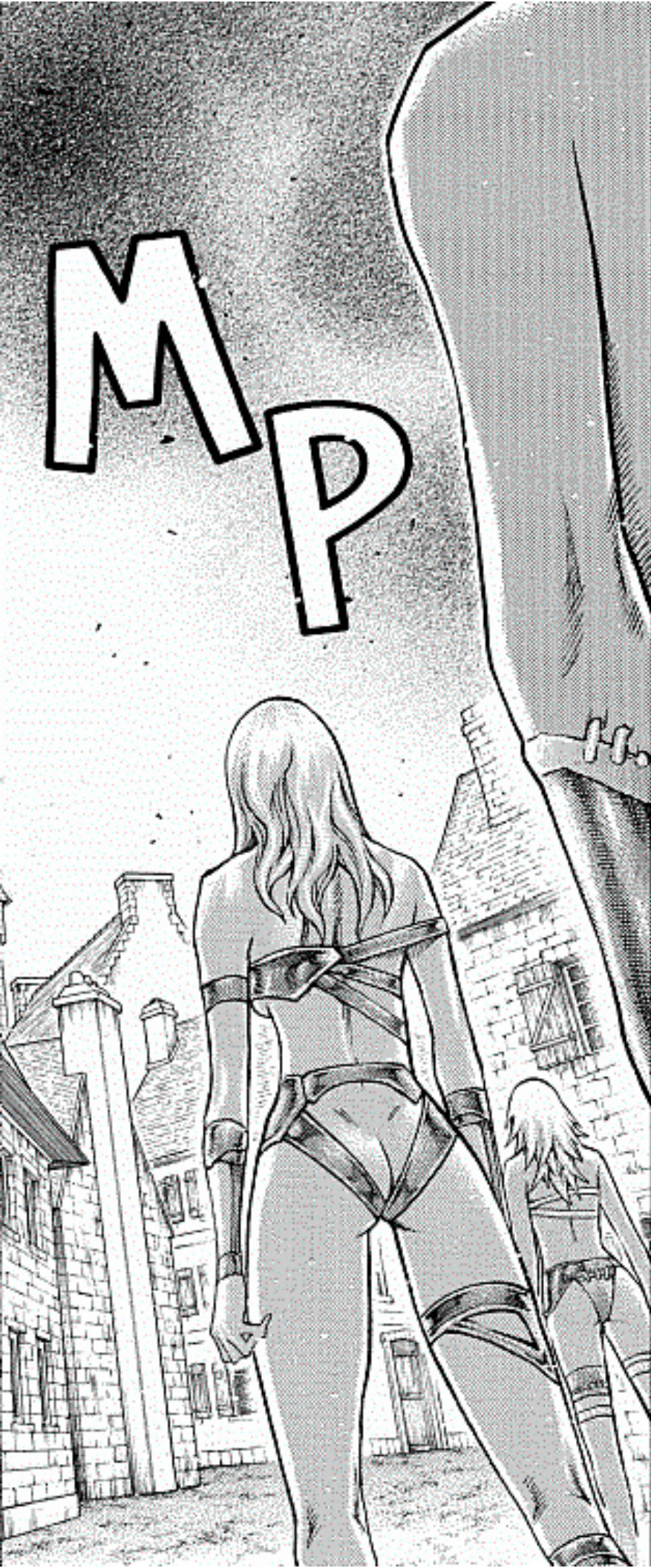
BACK
AT
YOU.

HEH!

THIS
IS THE
FIRST TIME
IN SEVEN
YEARS I'VE
RELEASED
MY YOMA
ENERGY...
AND IT
FEELS
GREAT.





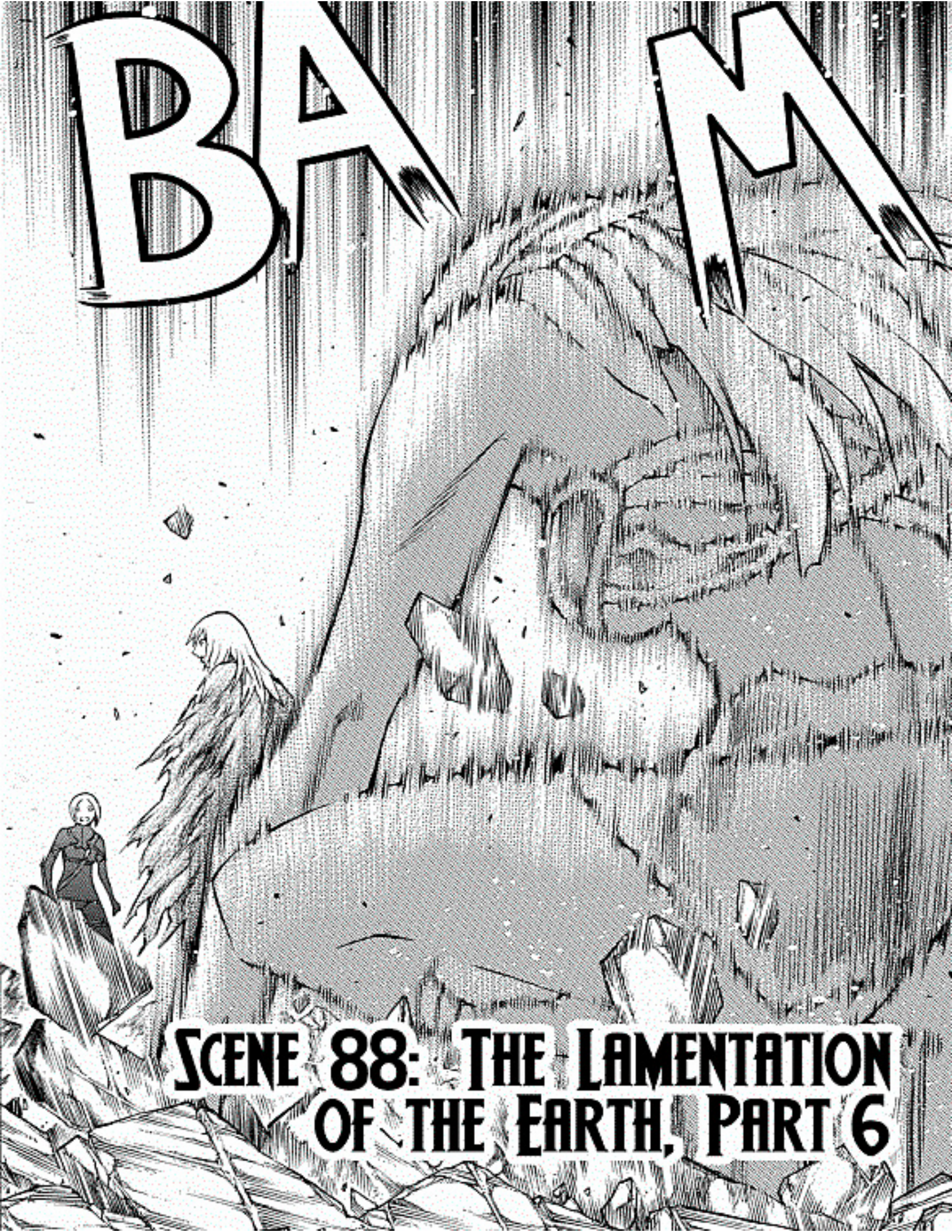


クレイモア
Claymore

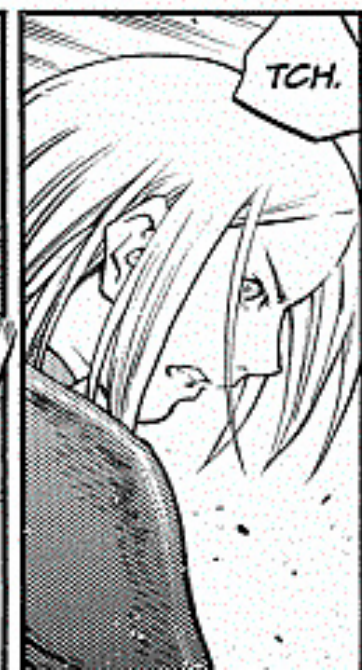
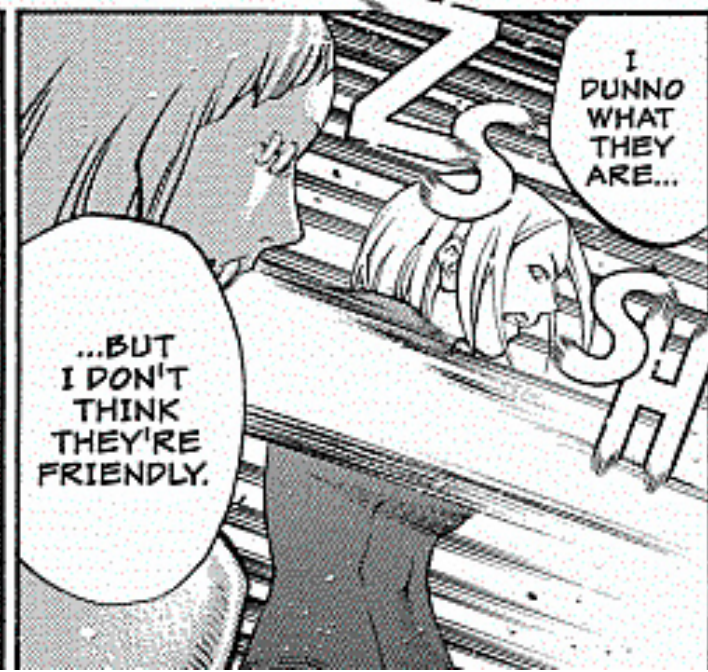
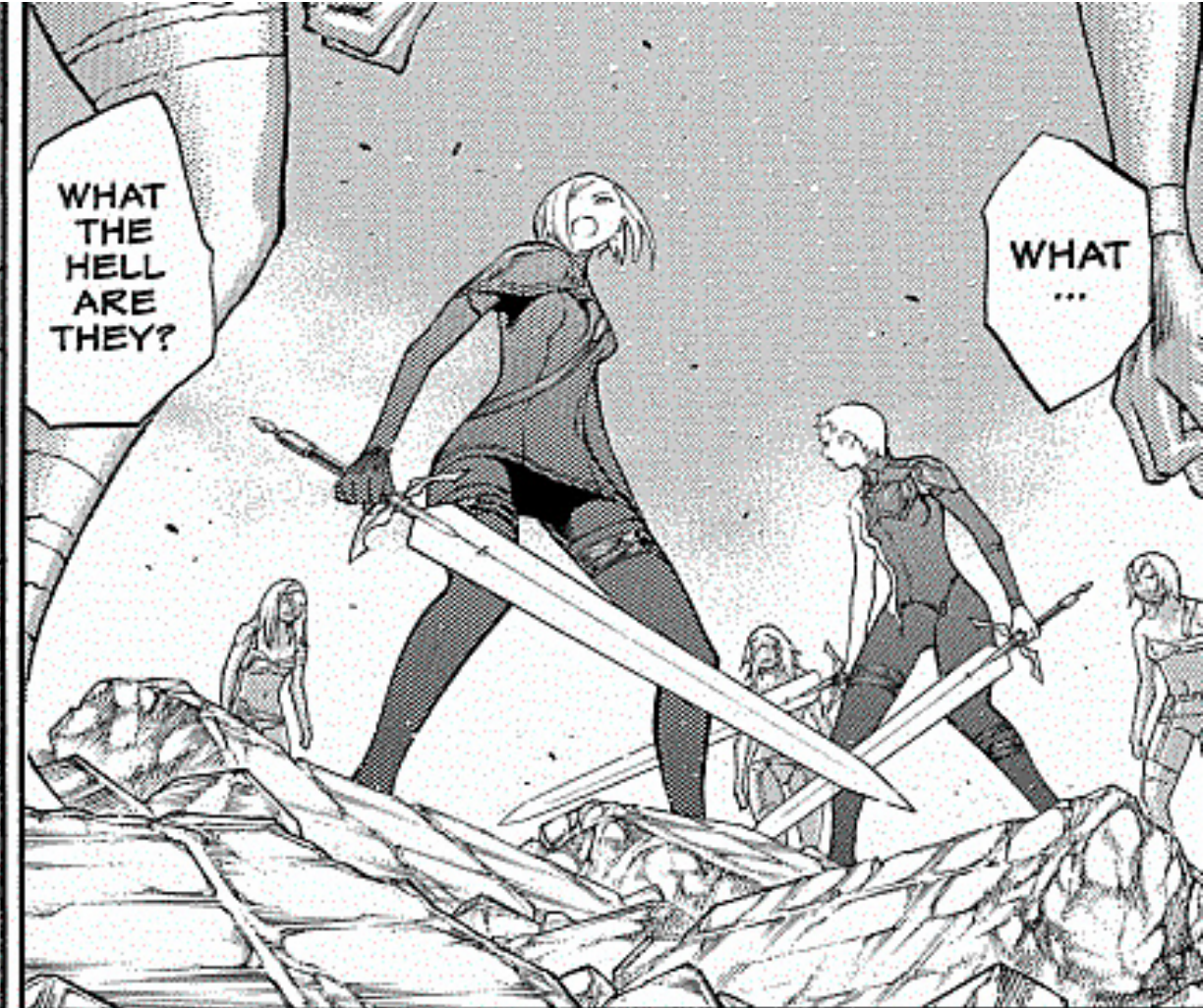
SCENE 88: THE LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH, PART 6

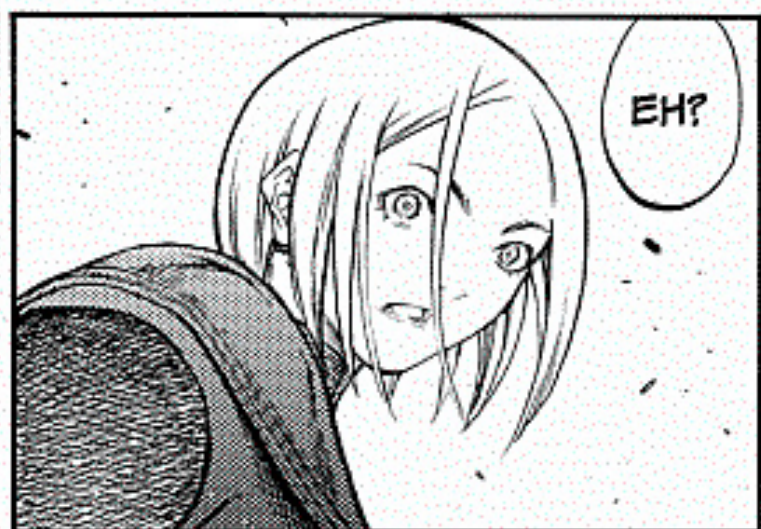
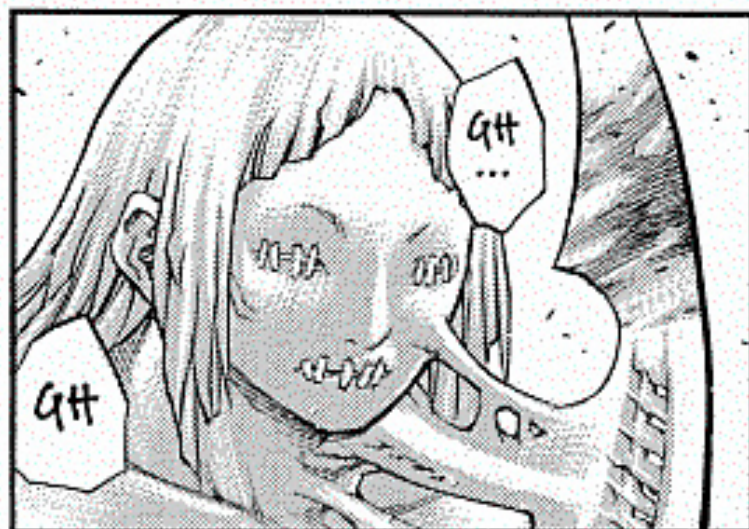
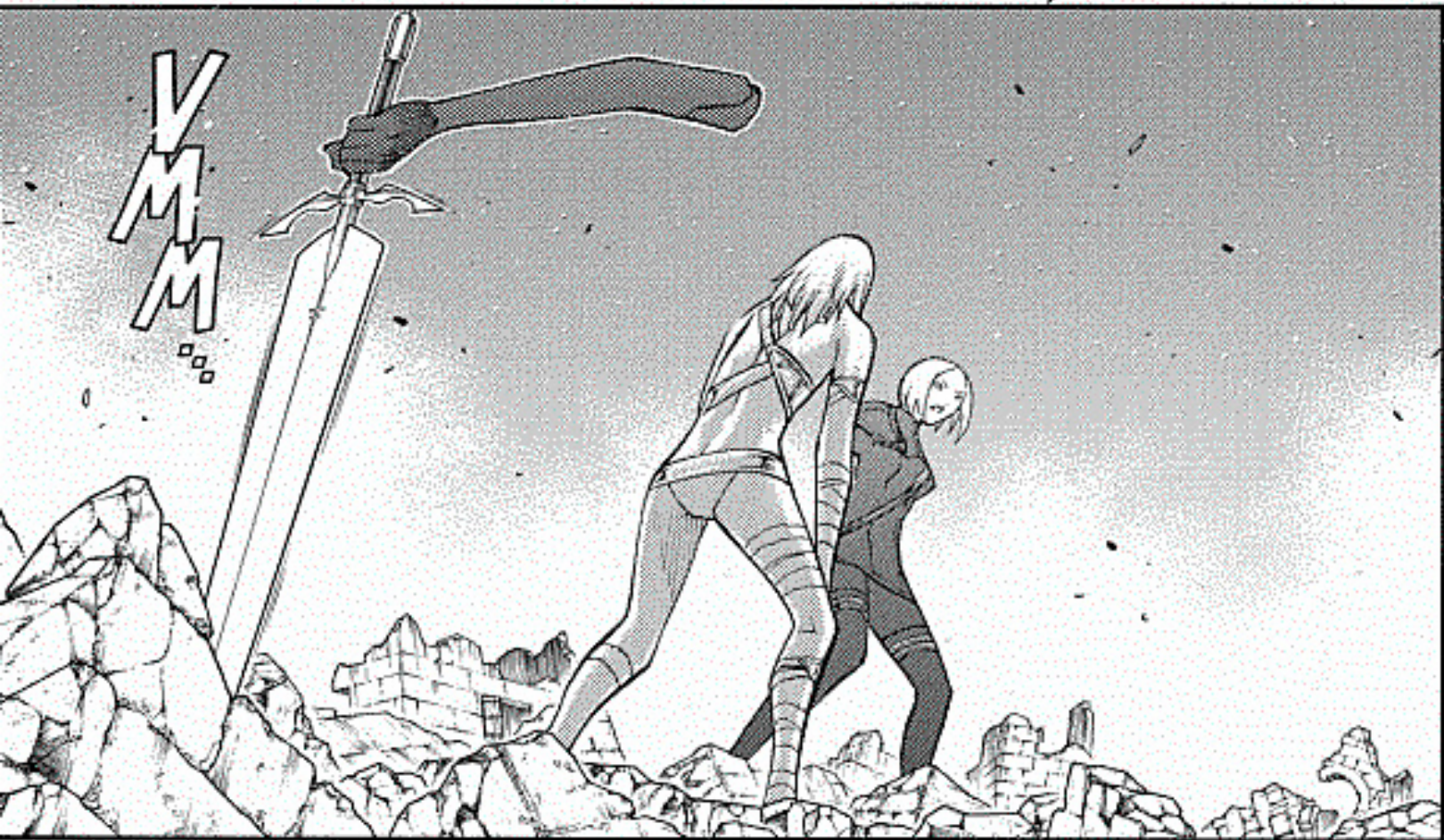
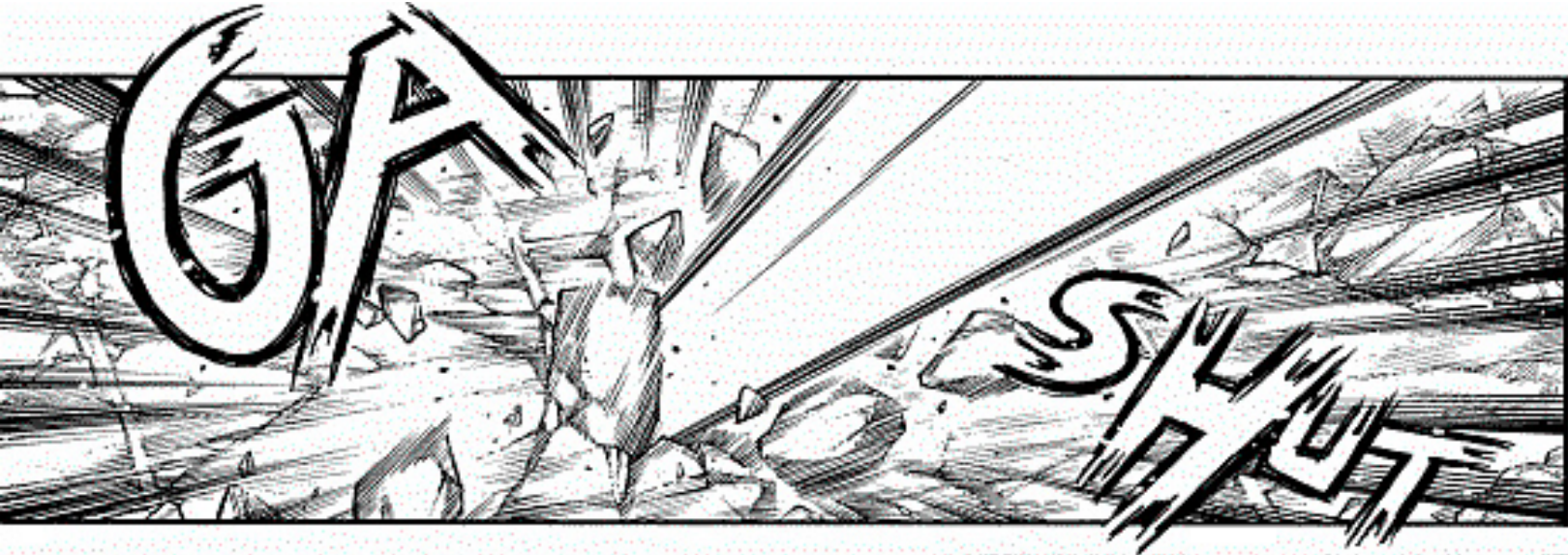


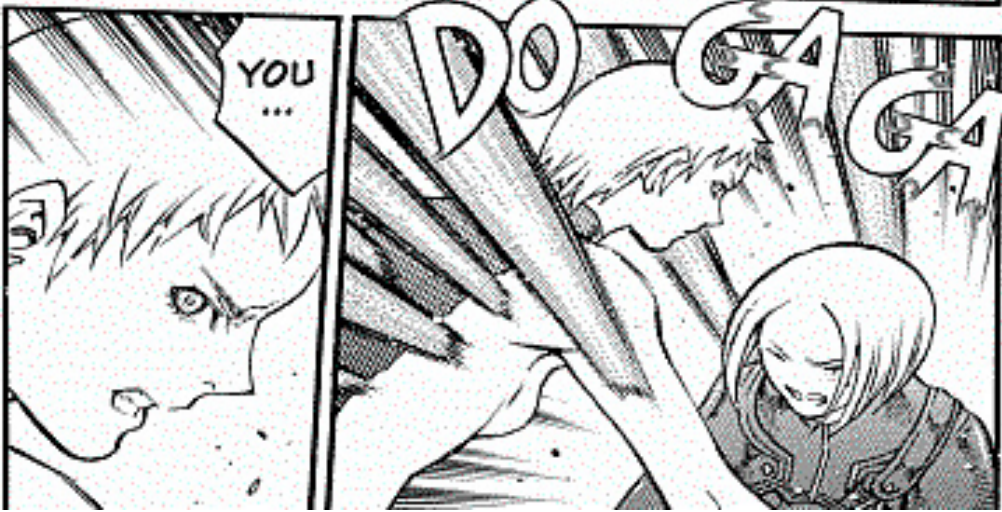
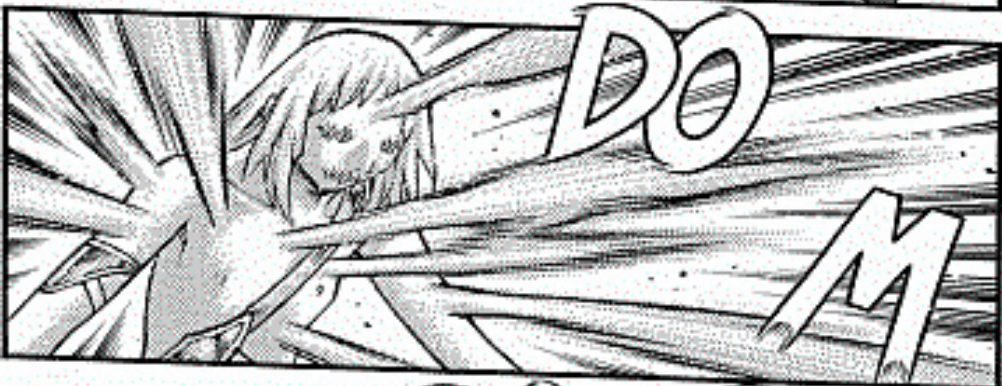
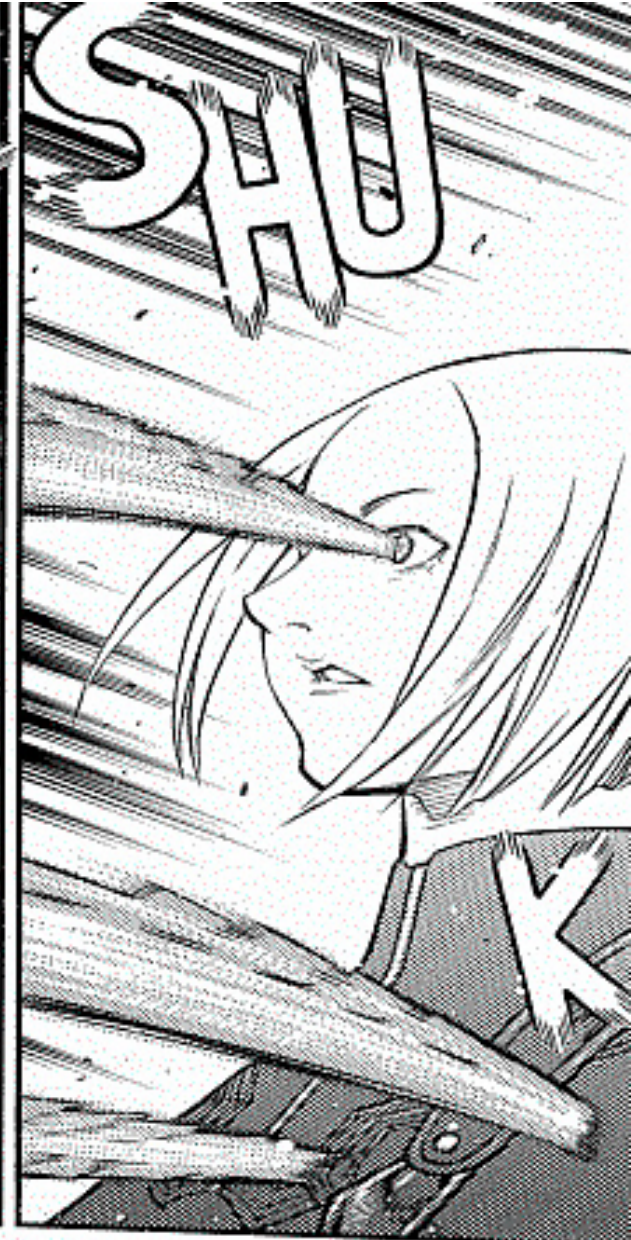


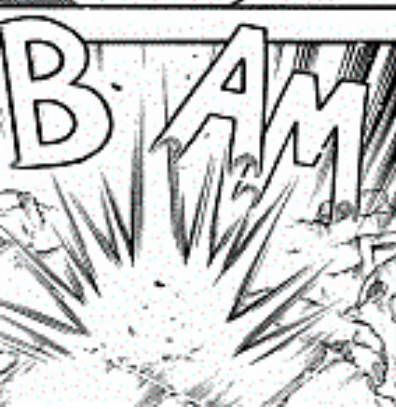
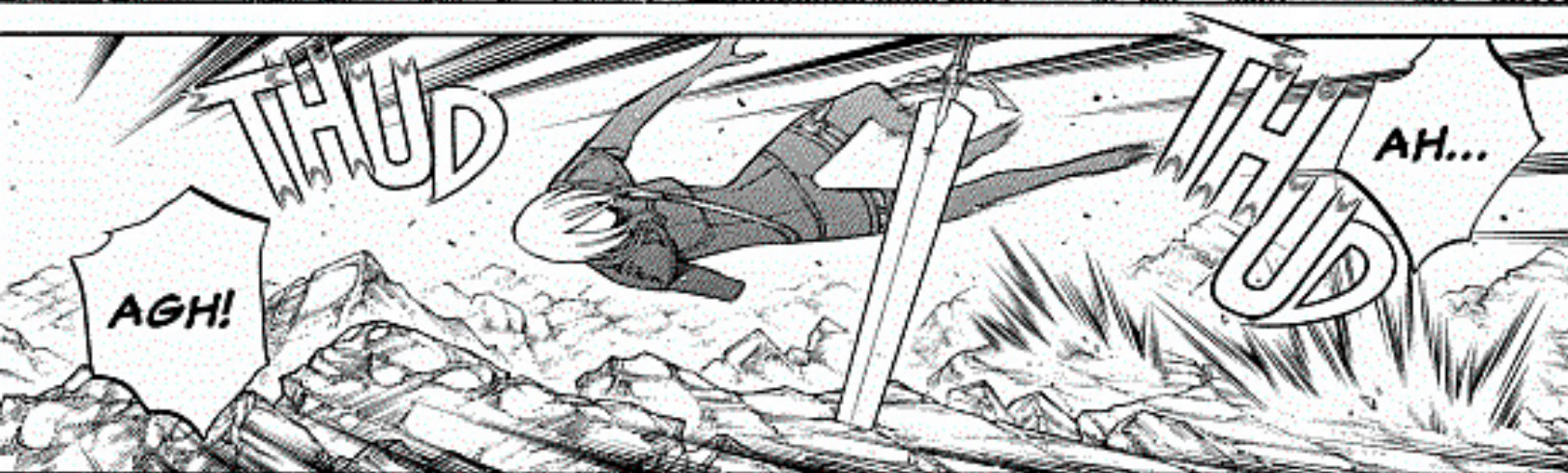
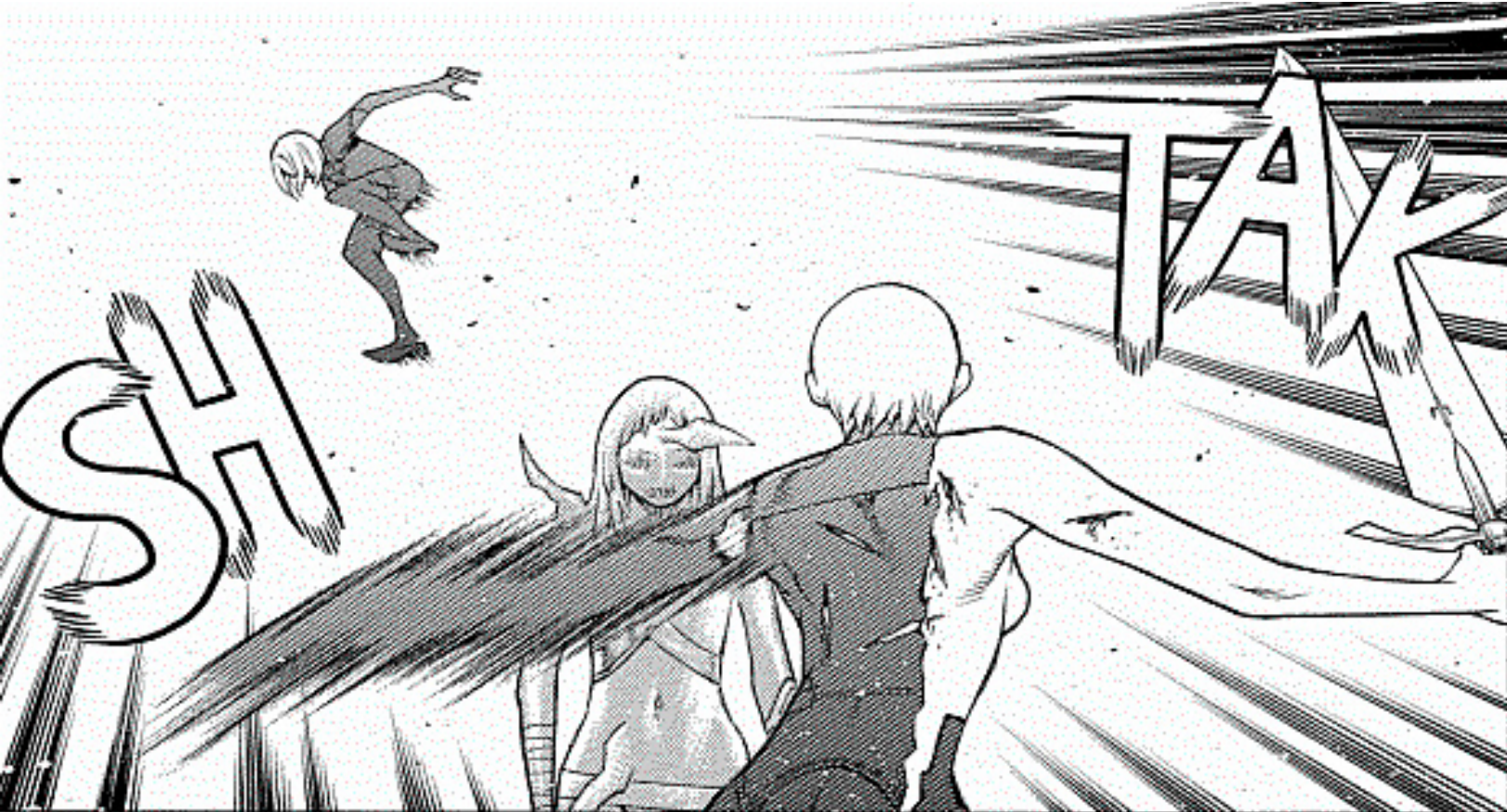


**SCENE 88: THE LAMENTATION
OF THE EARTH, PART 6**



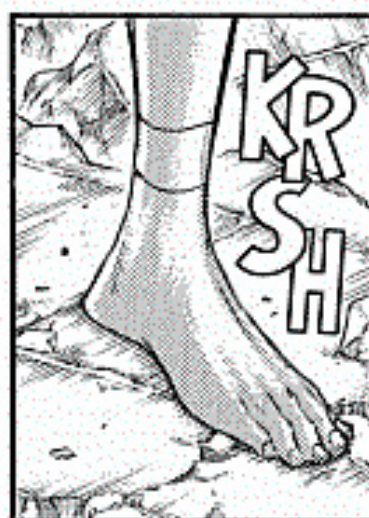
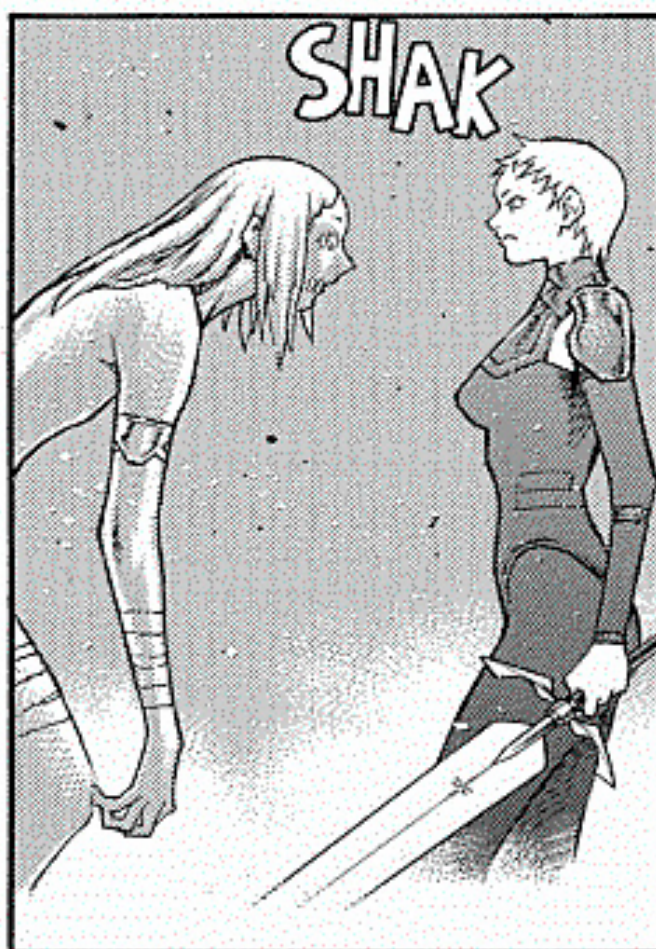
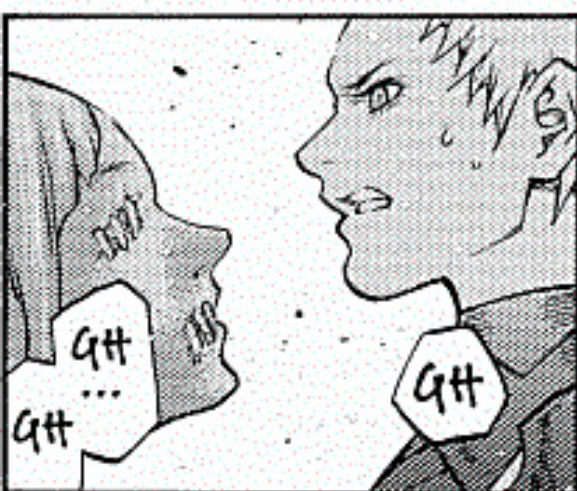


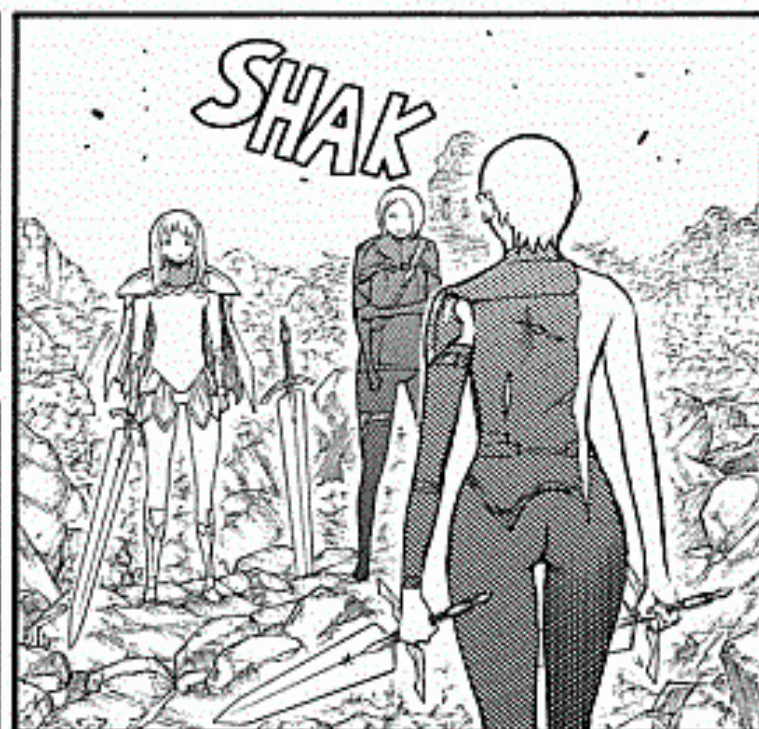
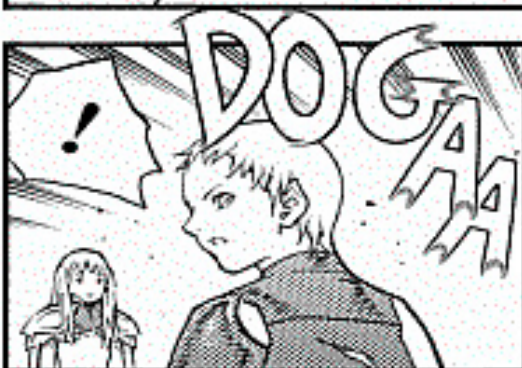
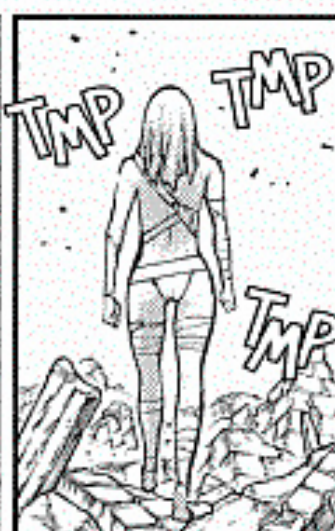
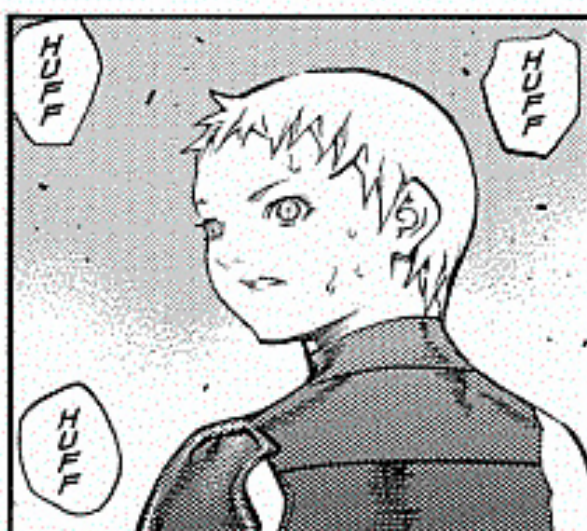
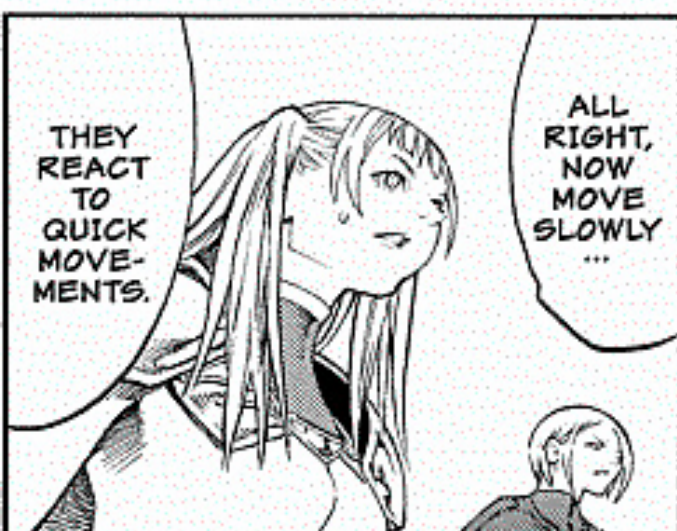
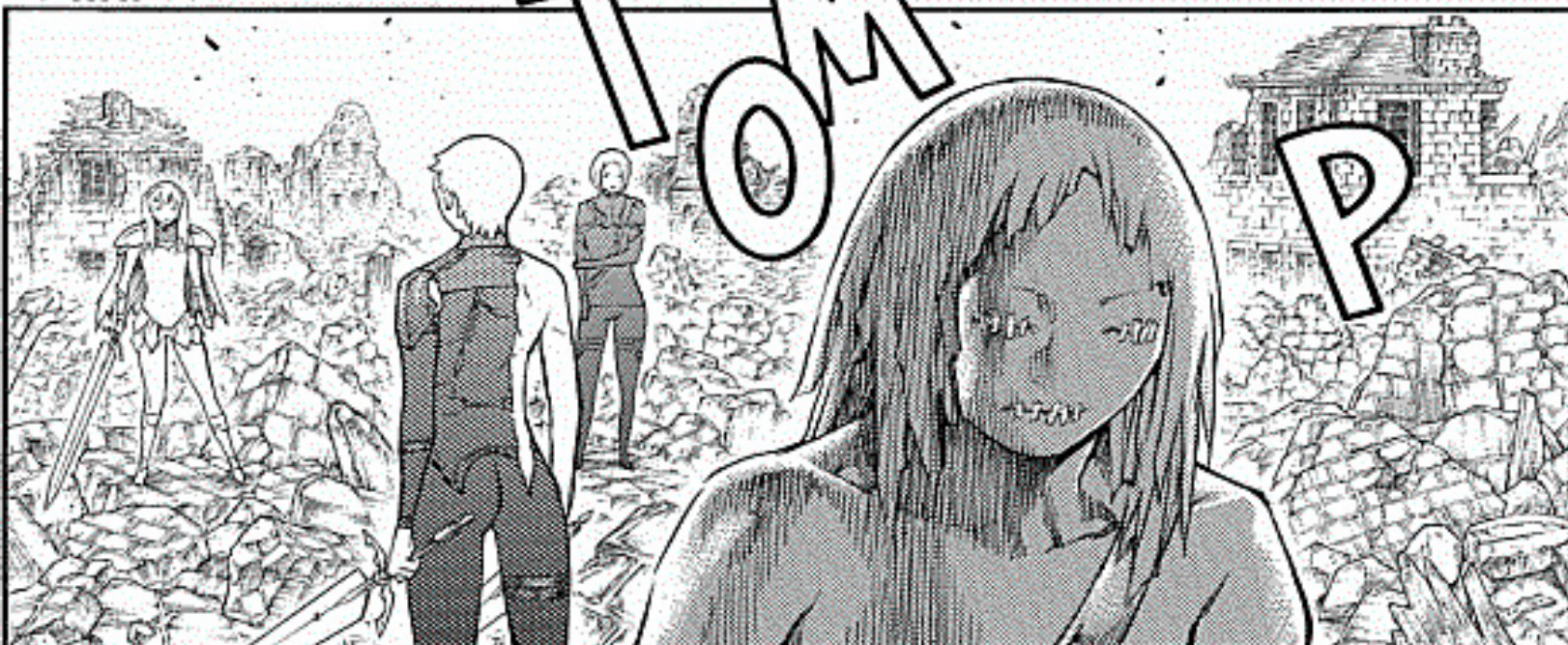


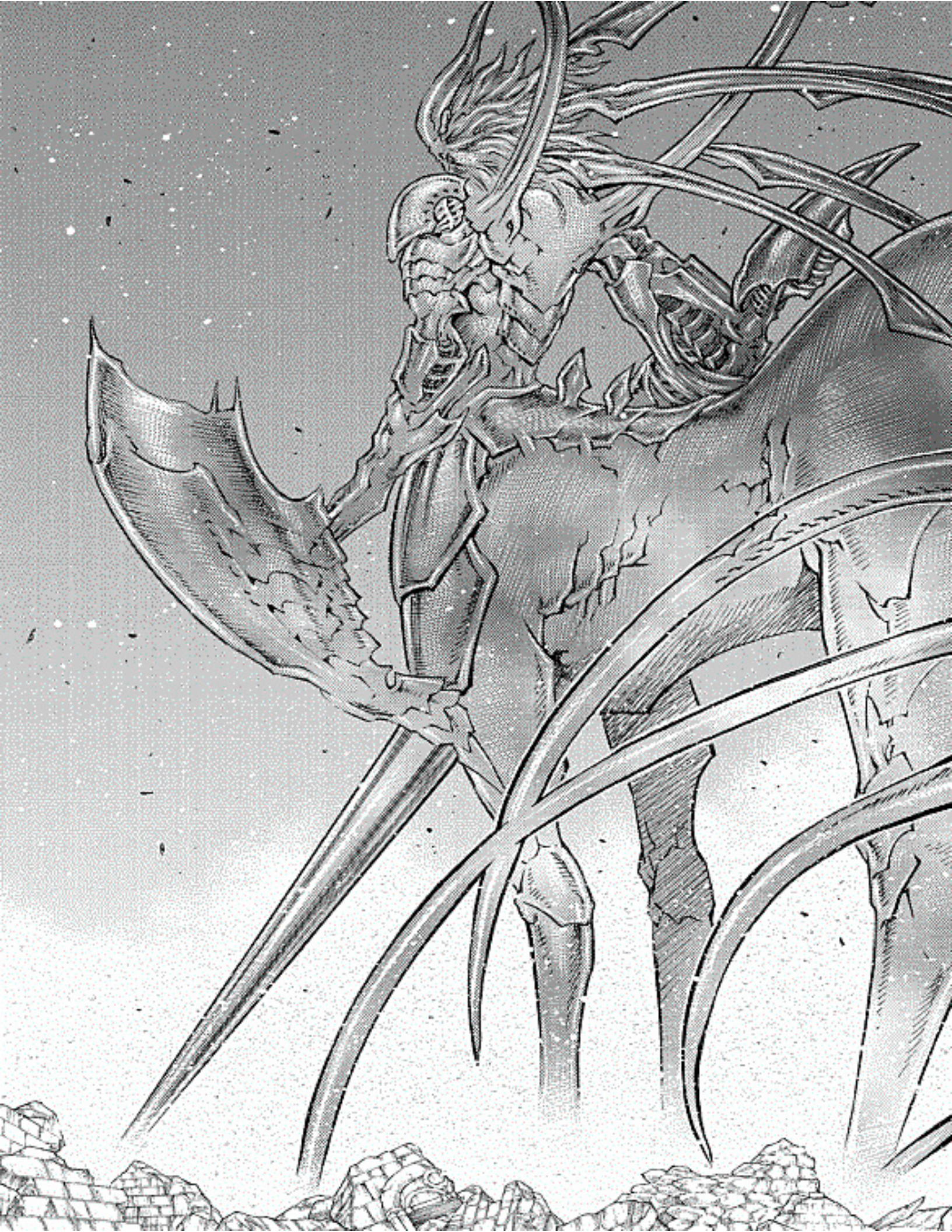


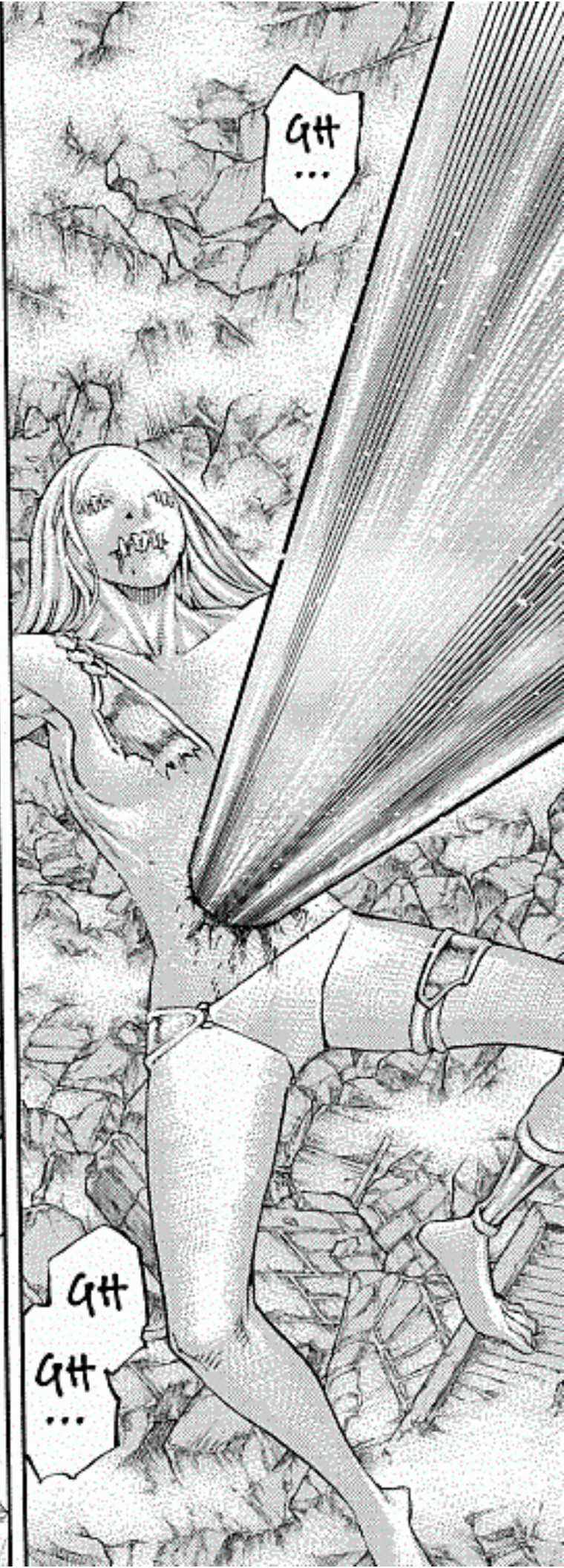


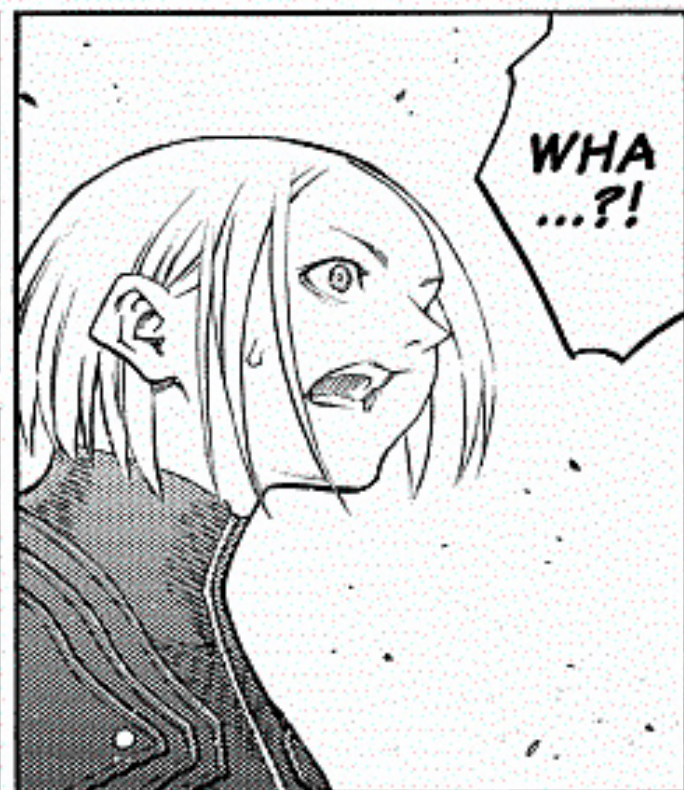
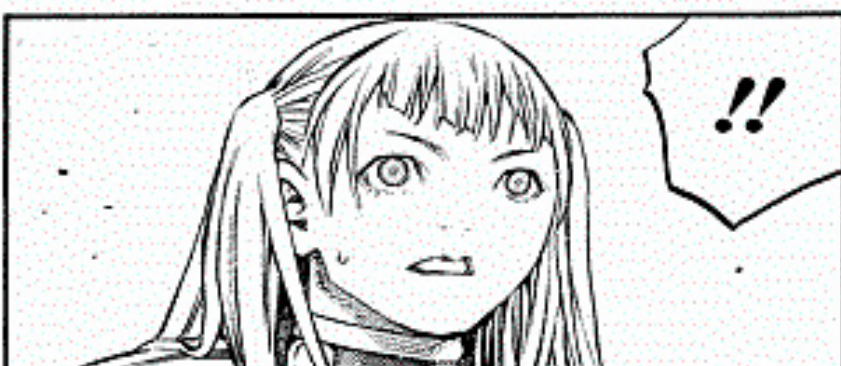
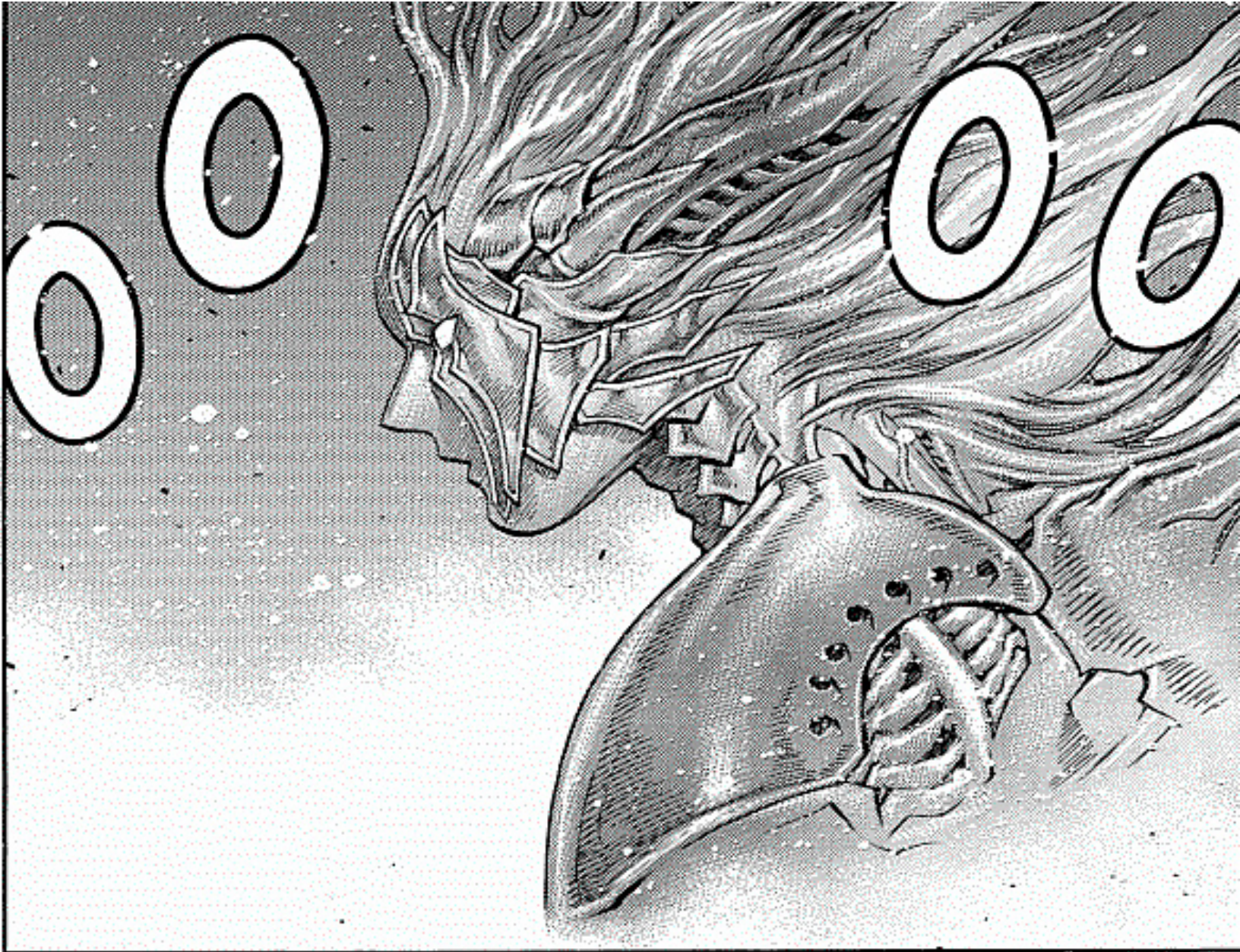




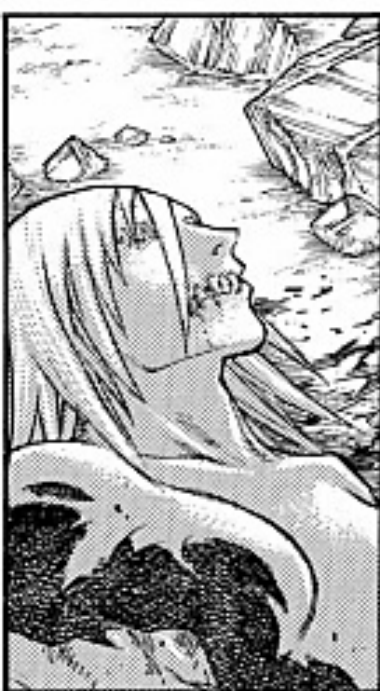


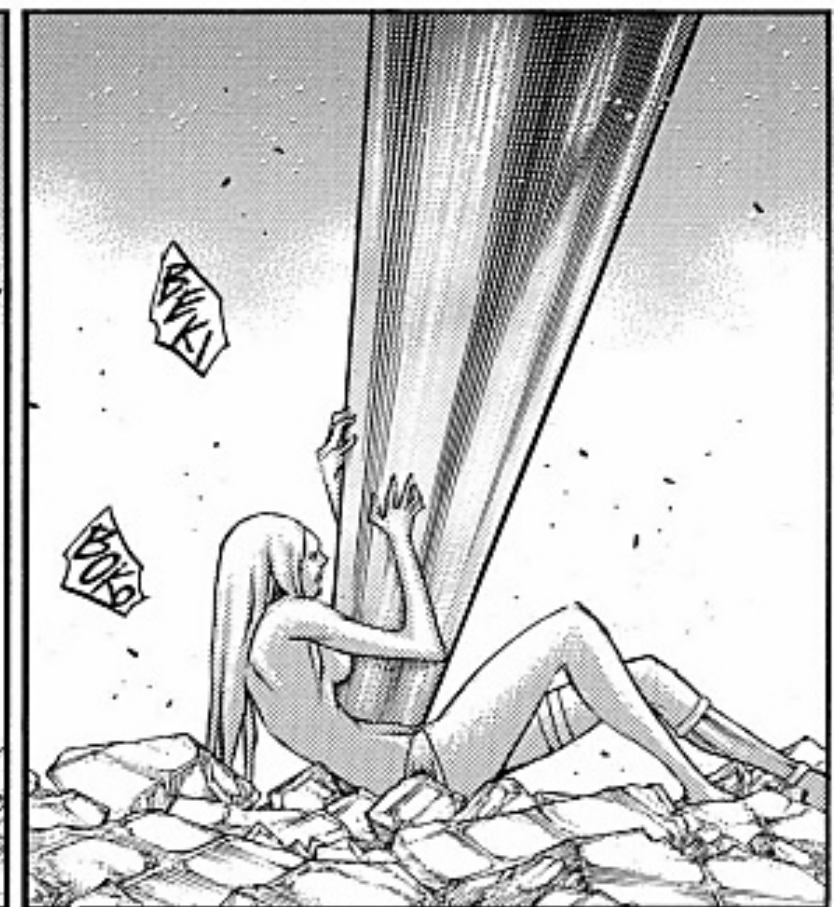


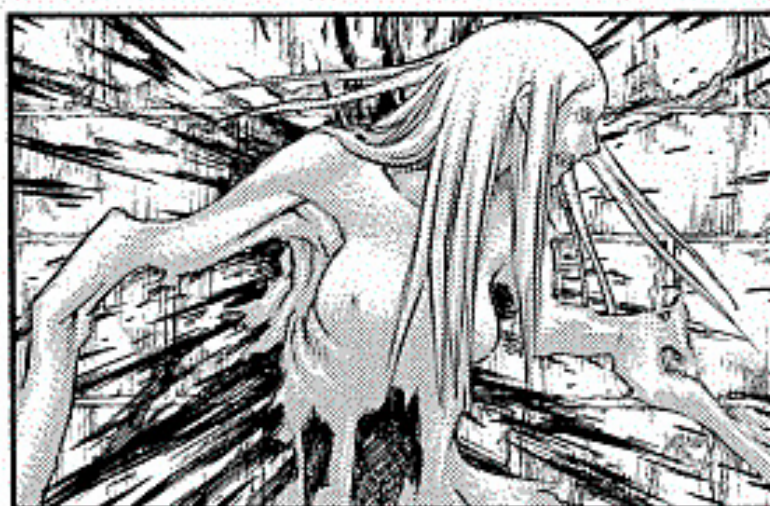
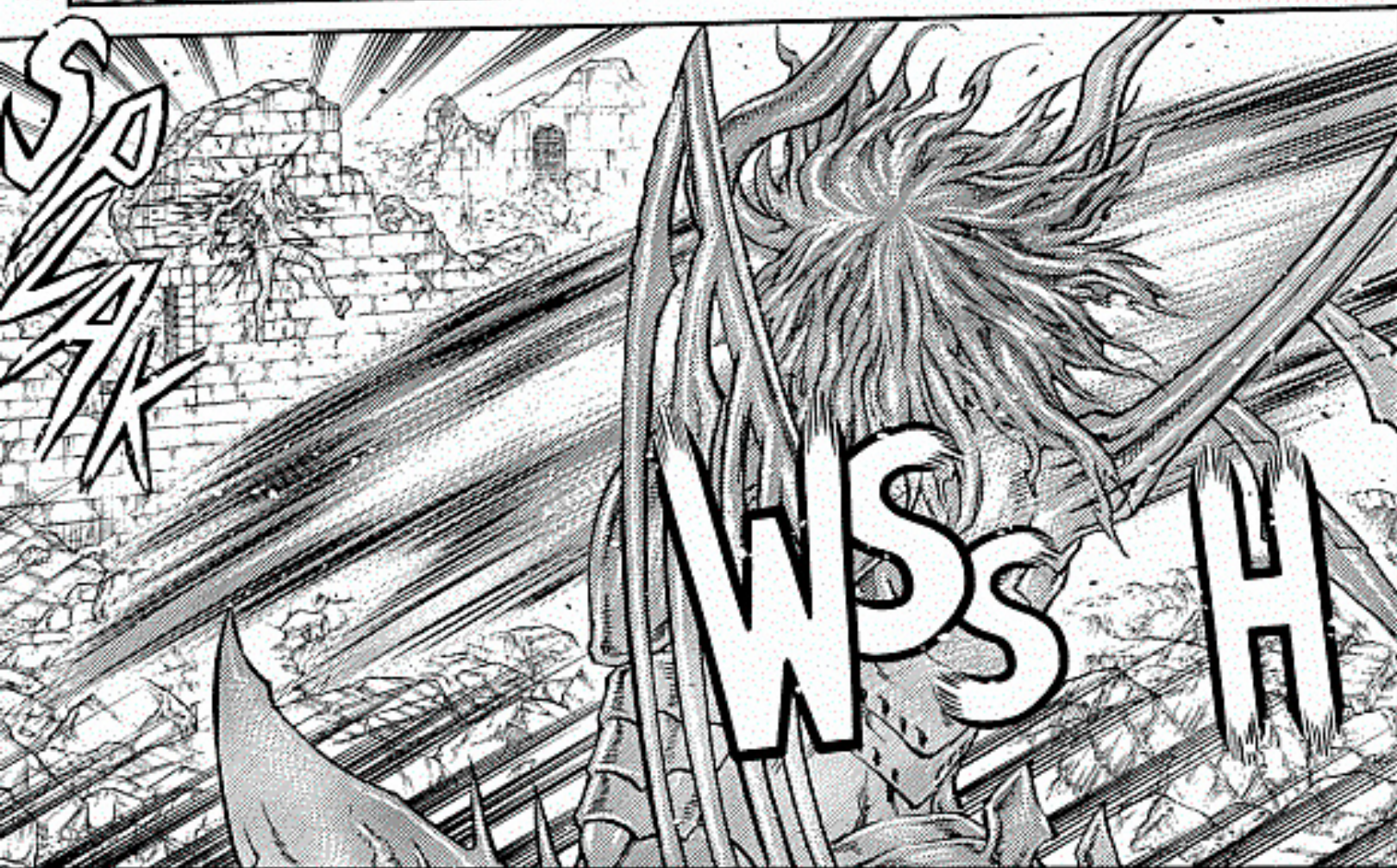
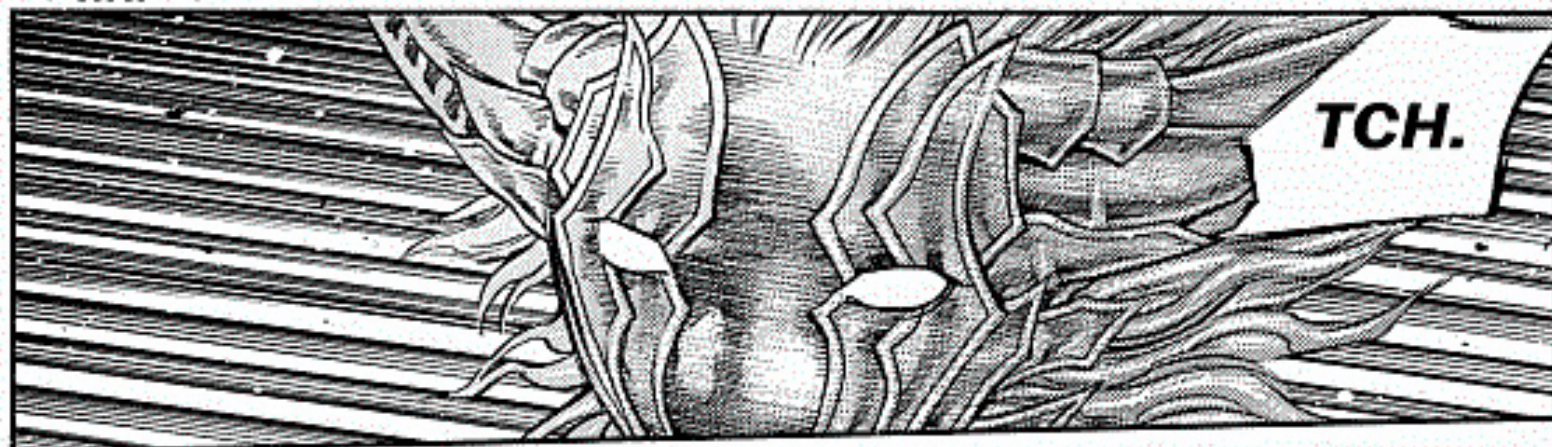


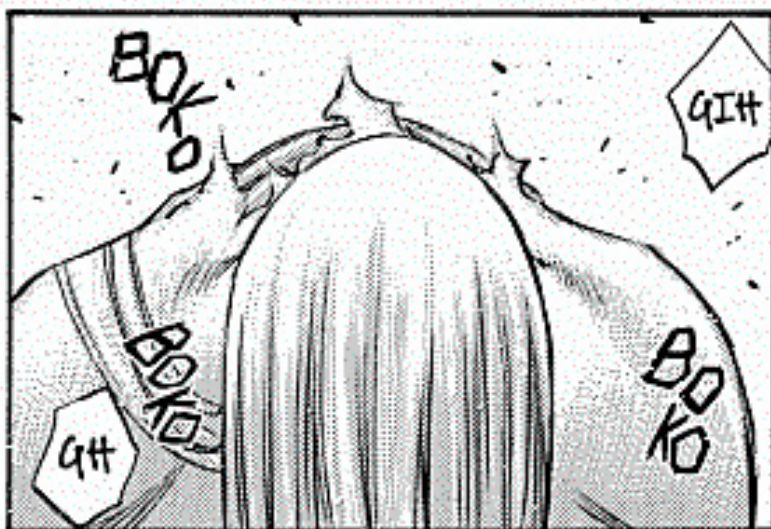
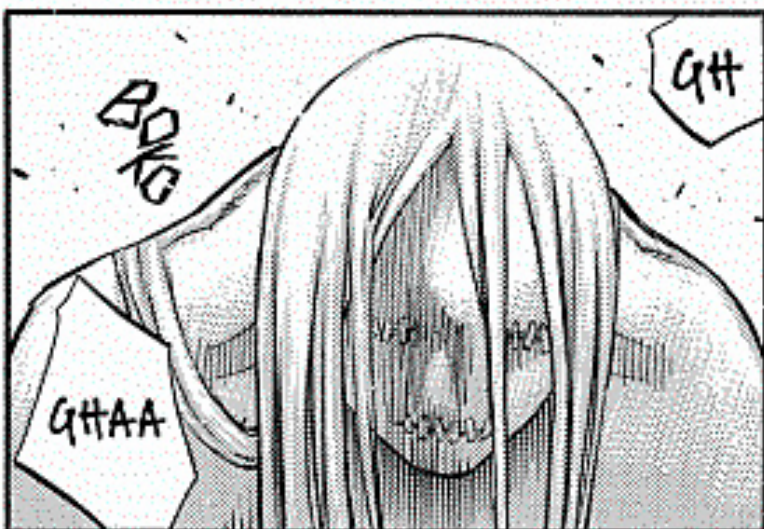
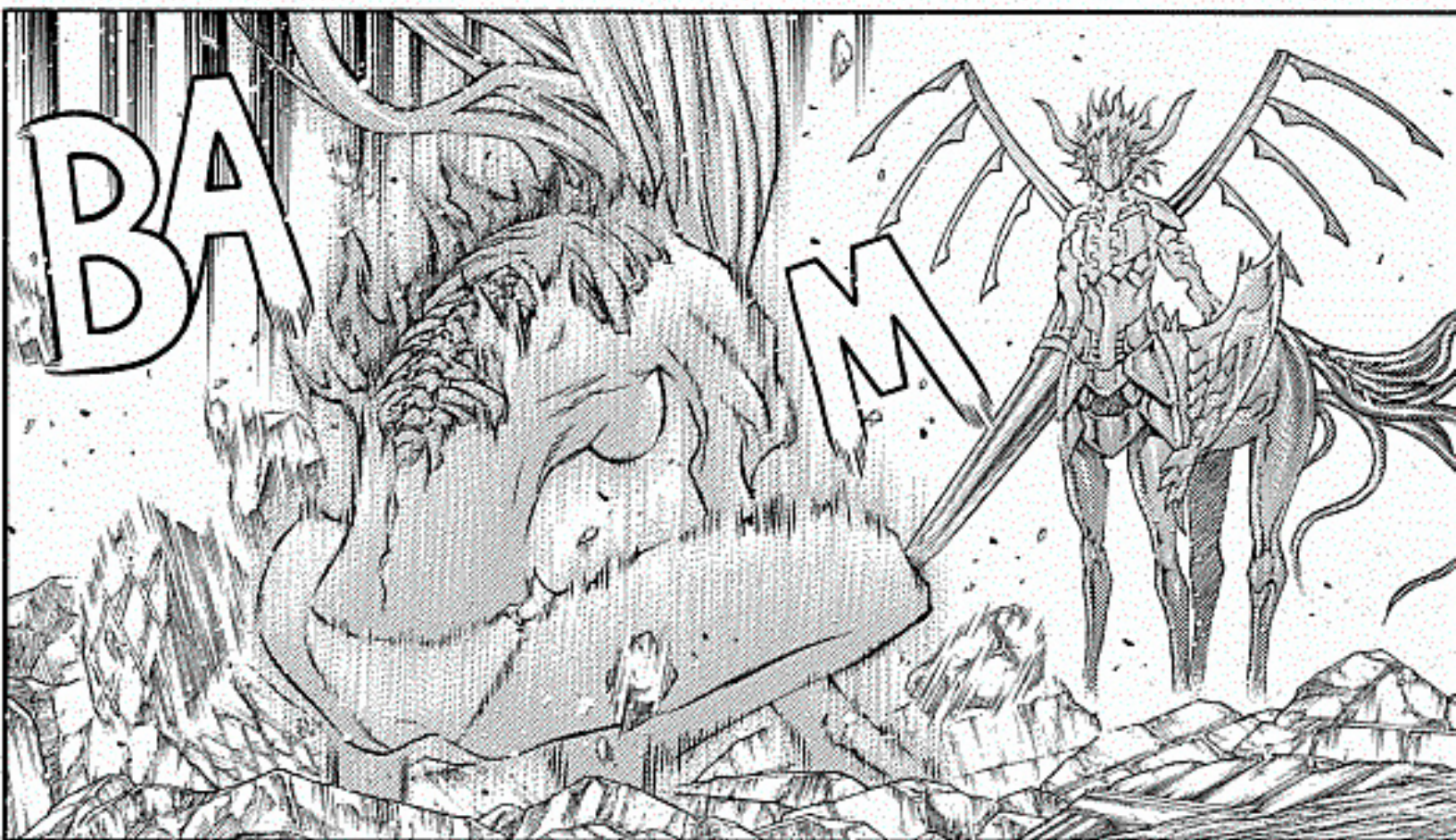
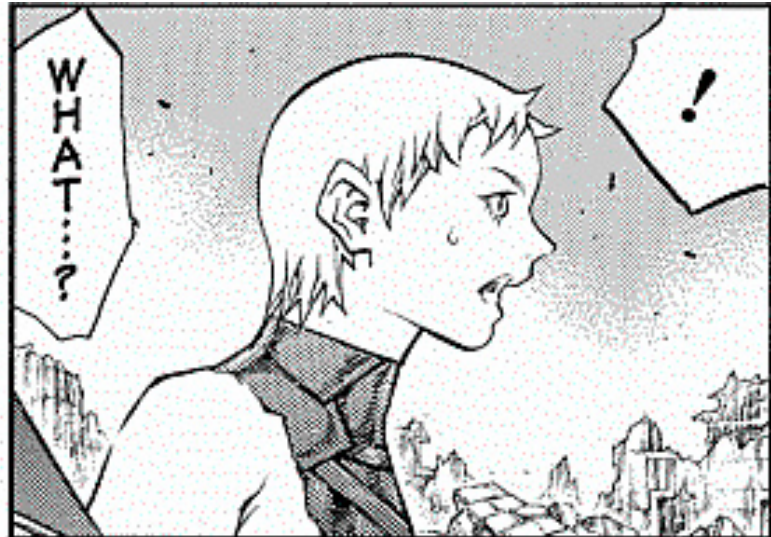
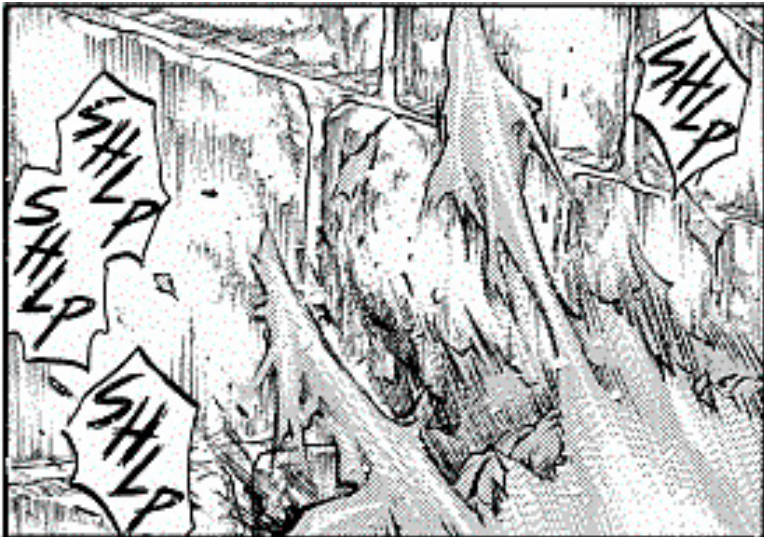


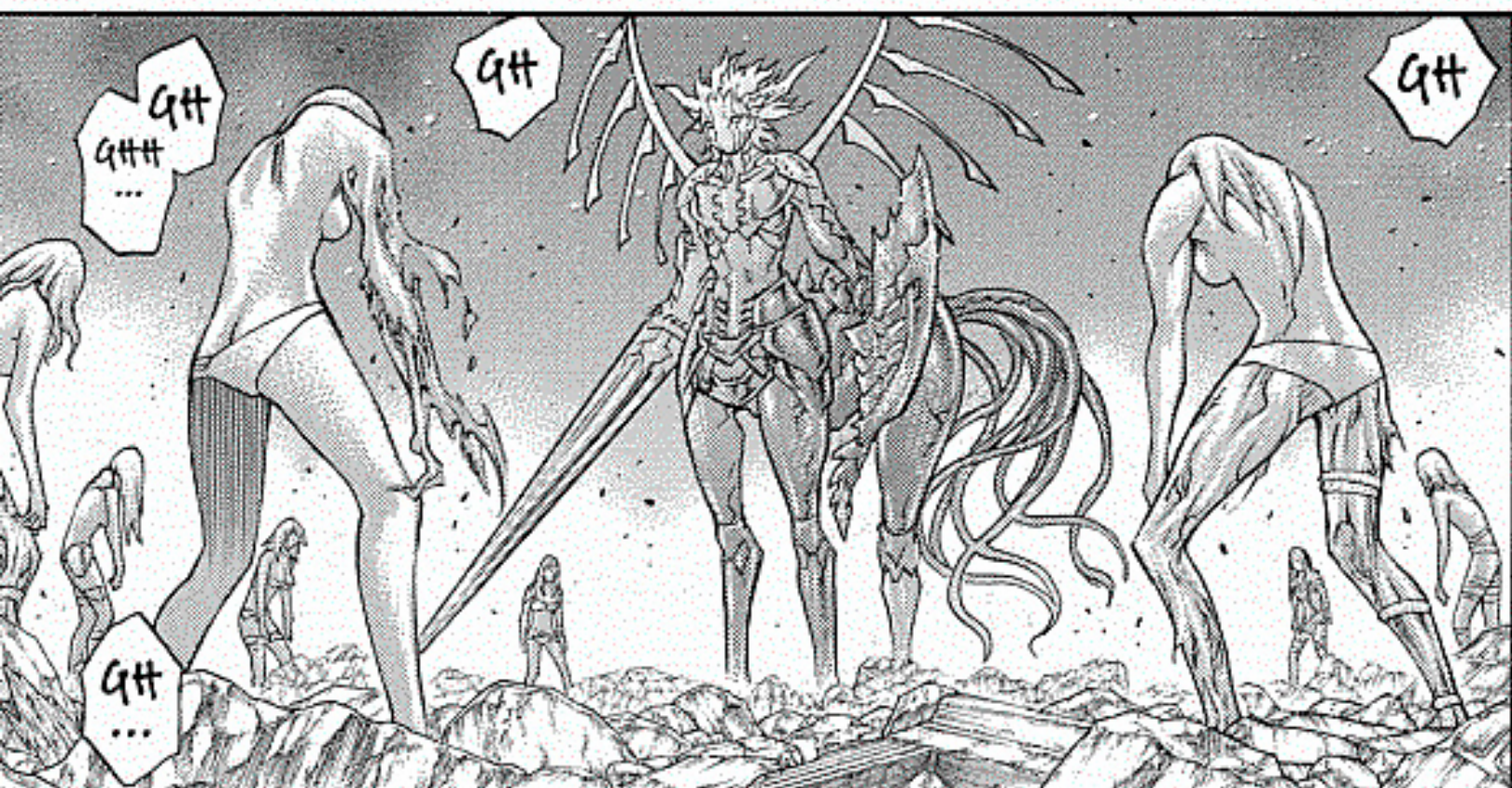
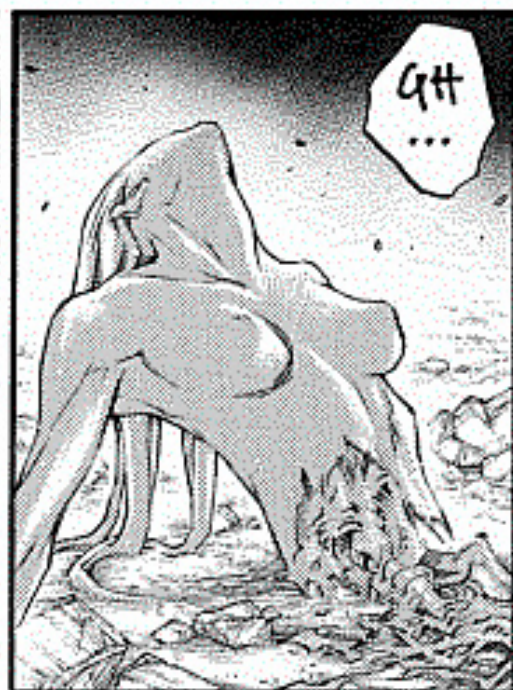
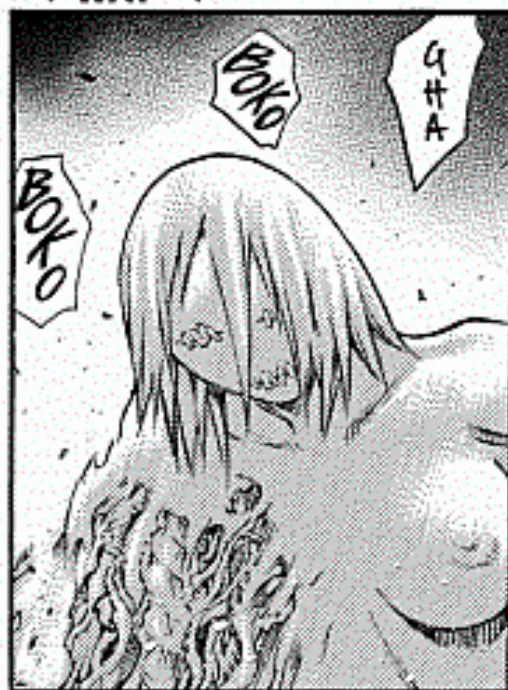
THAT'S
...

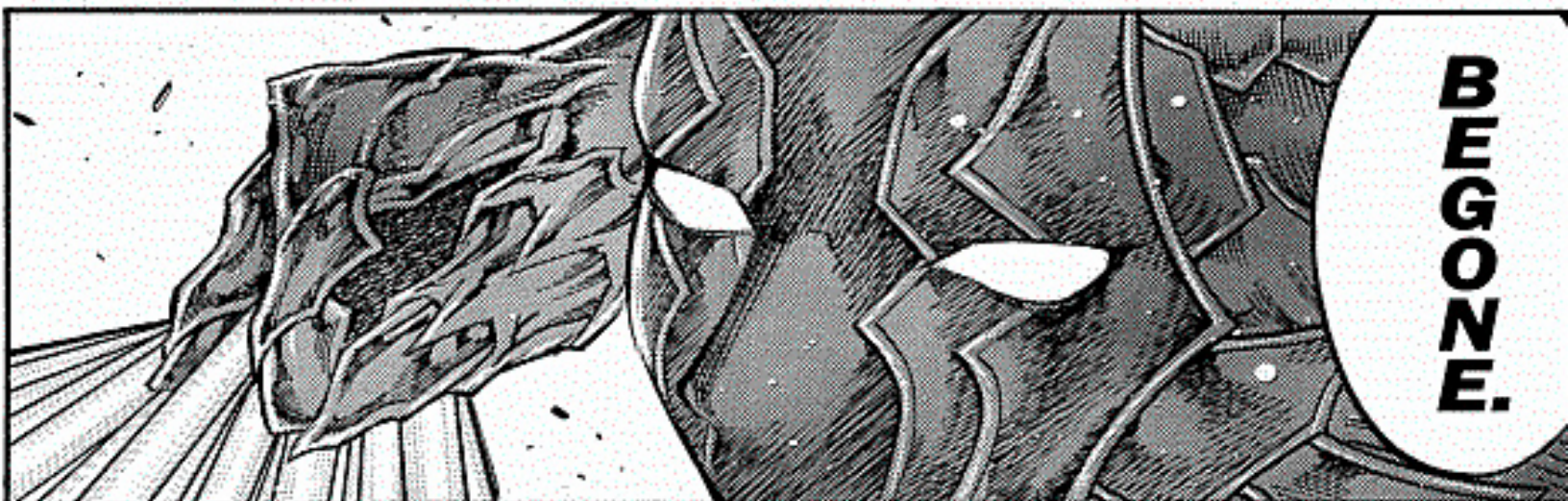
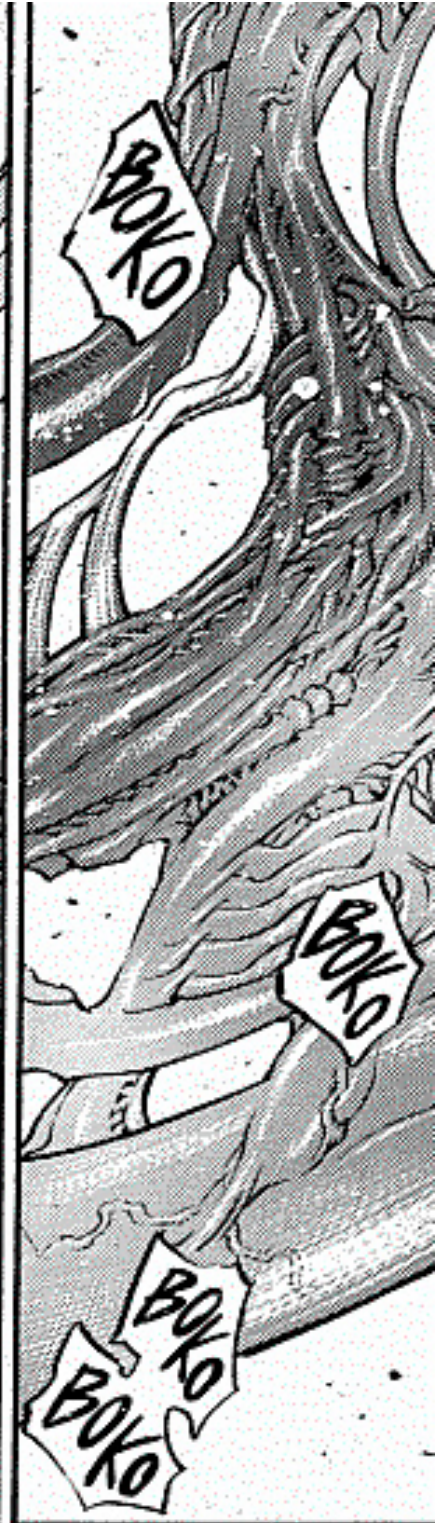




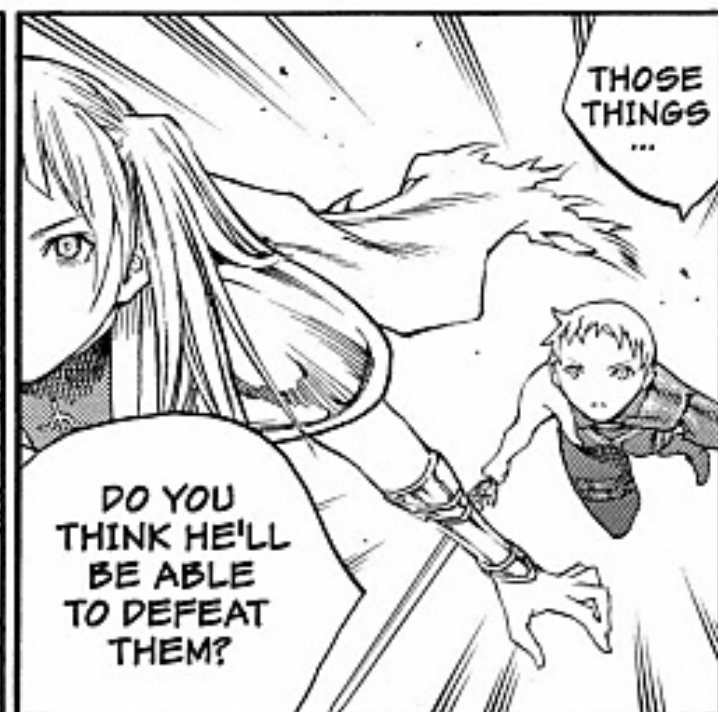
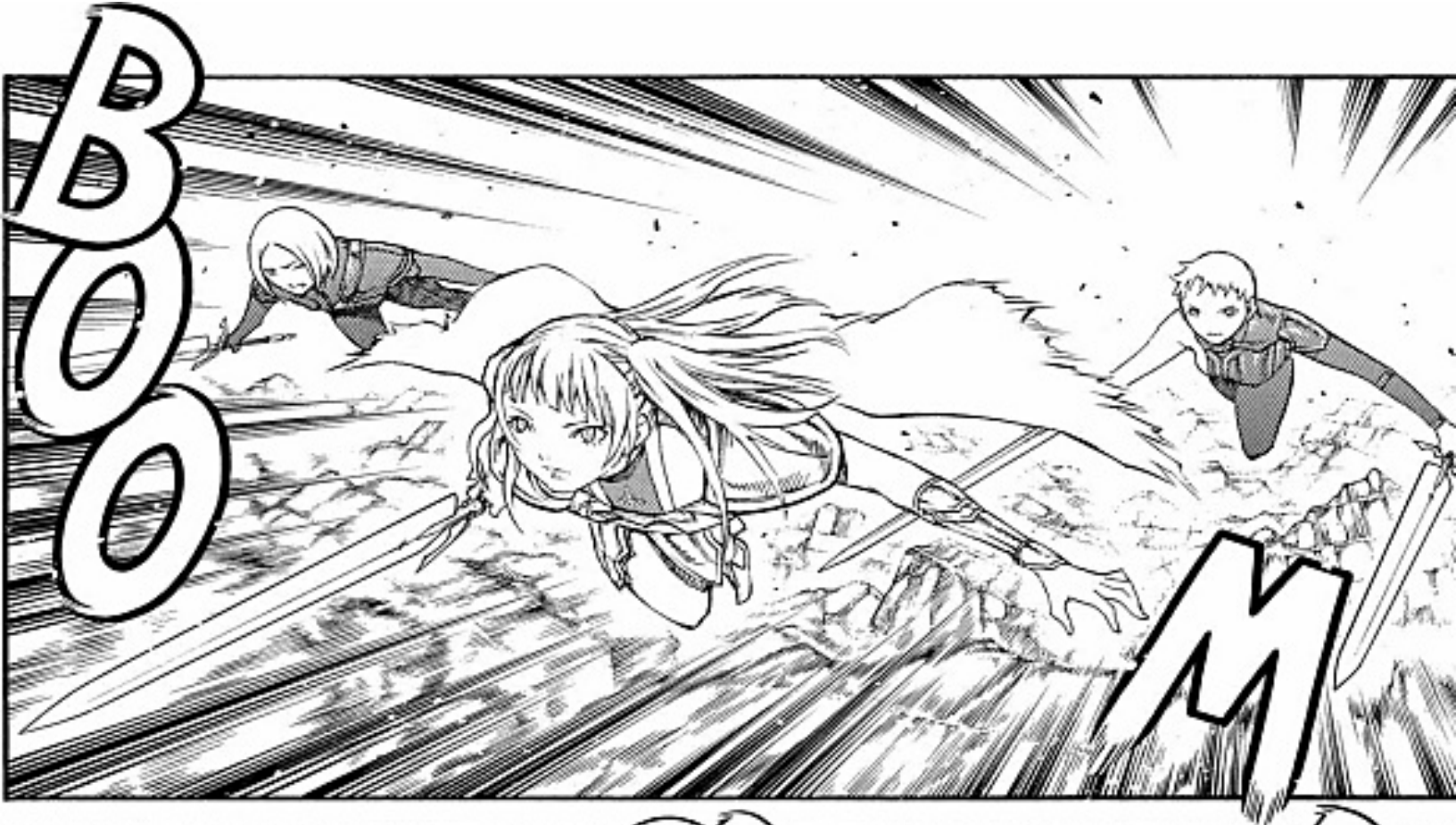






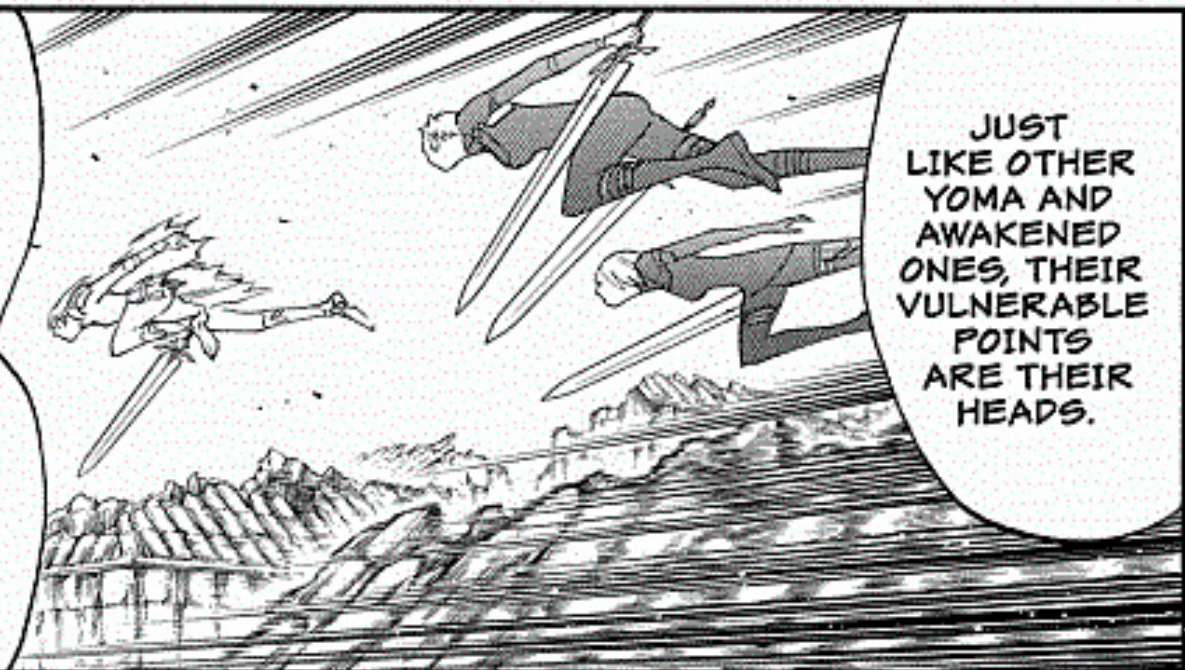






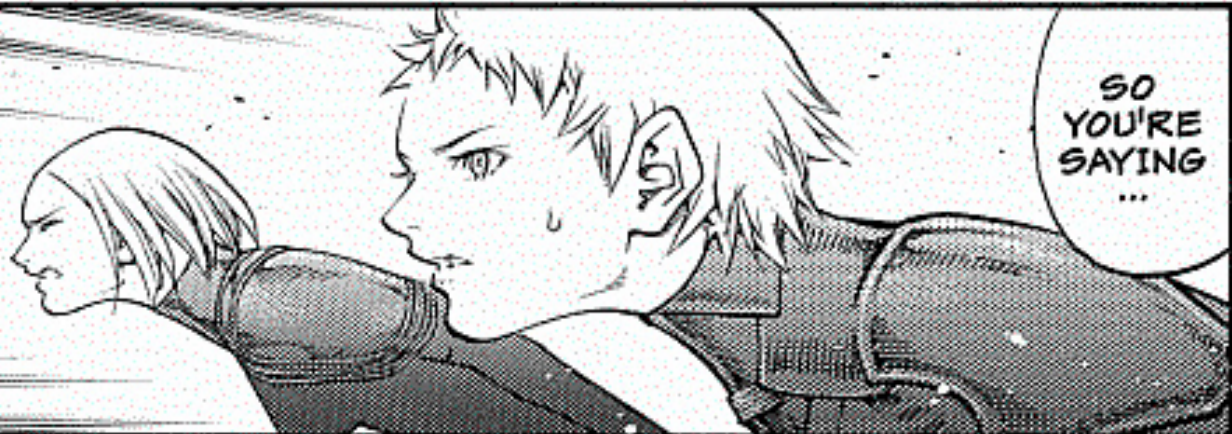
THAT IS TO SAY,
AS LONG AS THEY
GUARD THAT
VULNERABILITY,
THEY CAN RETAIN
ENOUGH ENERGY
TO REGENERATE
RAPIDLY.

THAT'S WHY
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
THEY MOVE IN
SUCH A WAY AS
TO PROTECT
THEIR HEADS.

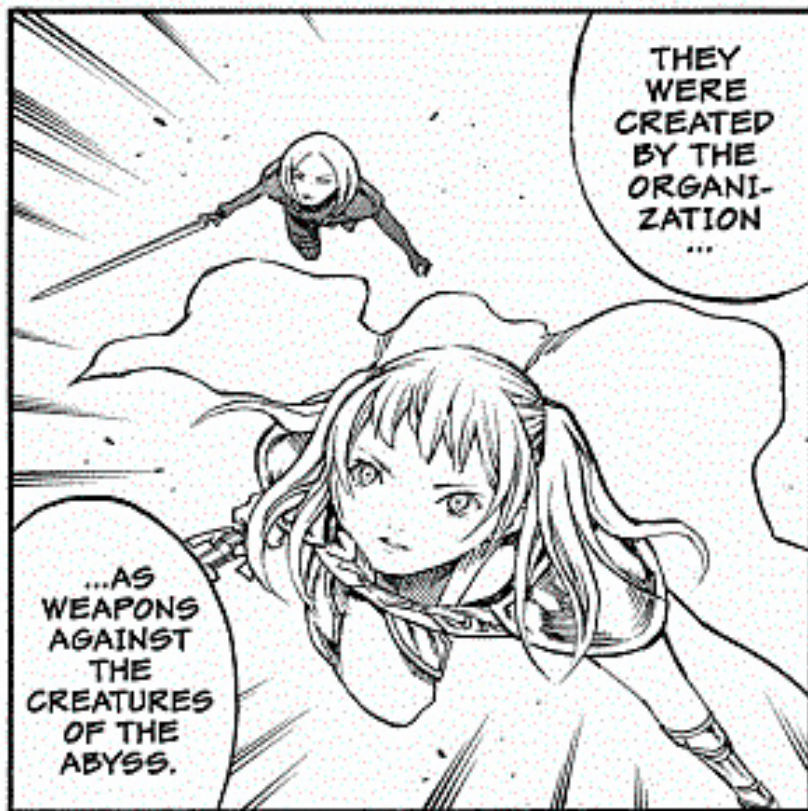
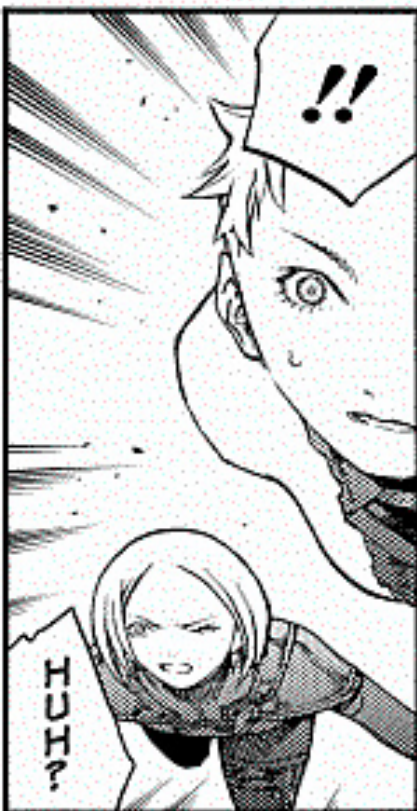


JUST
LIKE OTHER
YOMA AND
AWAKENED
ONES, THEIR
VULNERABLE
POINTS
ARE THEIR
HEADS.

...
THEY'RE
AWAK-
ENED
ONES?



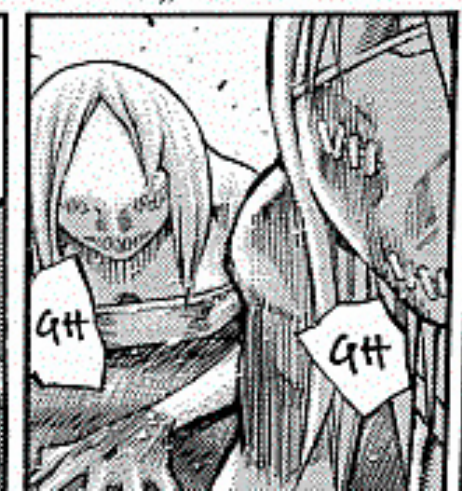
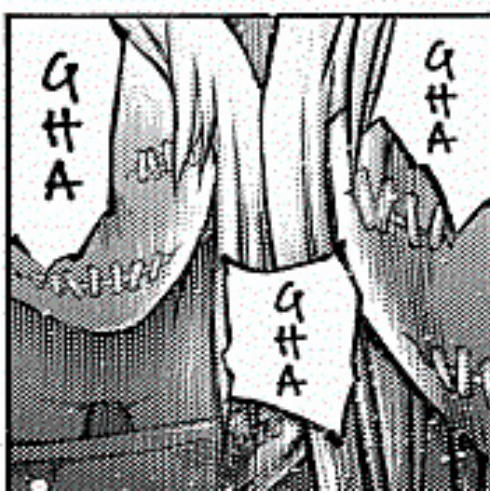
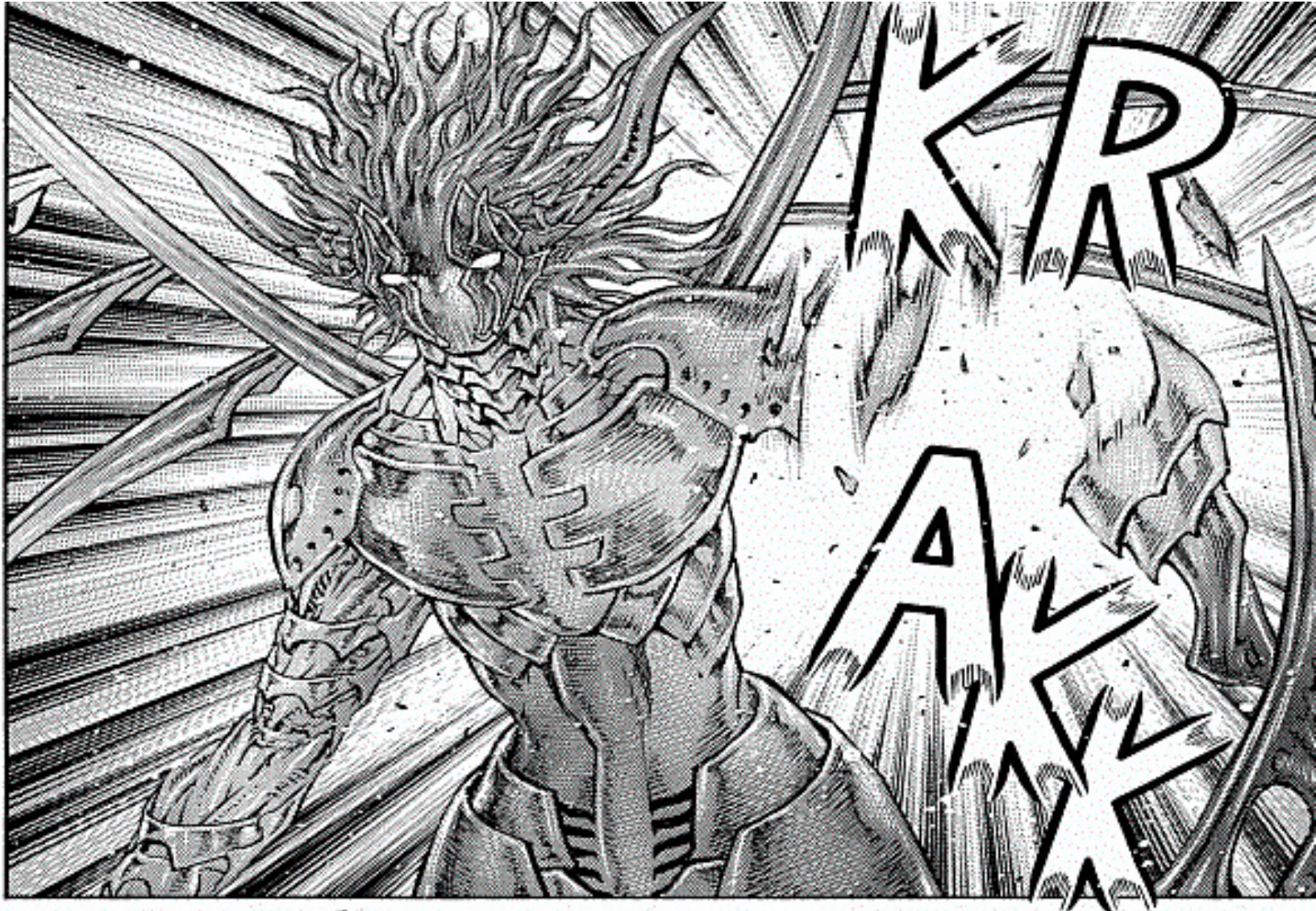
SO
YOU'RE
SAYING
...



THEY
WERE
CREATED
BY THE
ORGANI-
ZATION
...

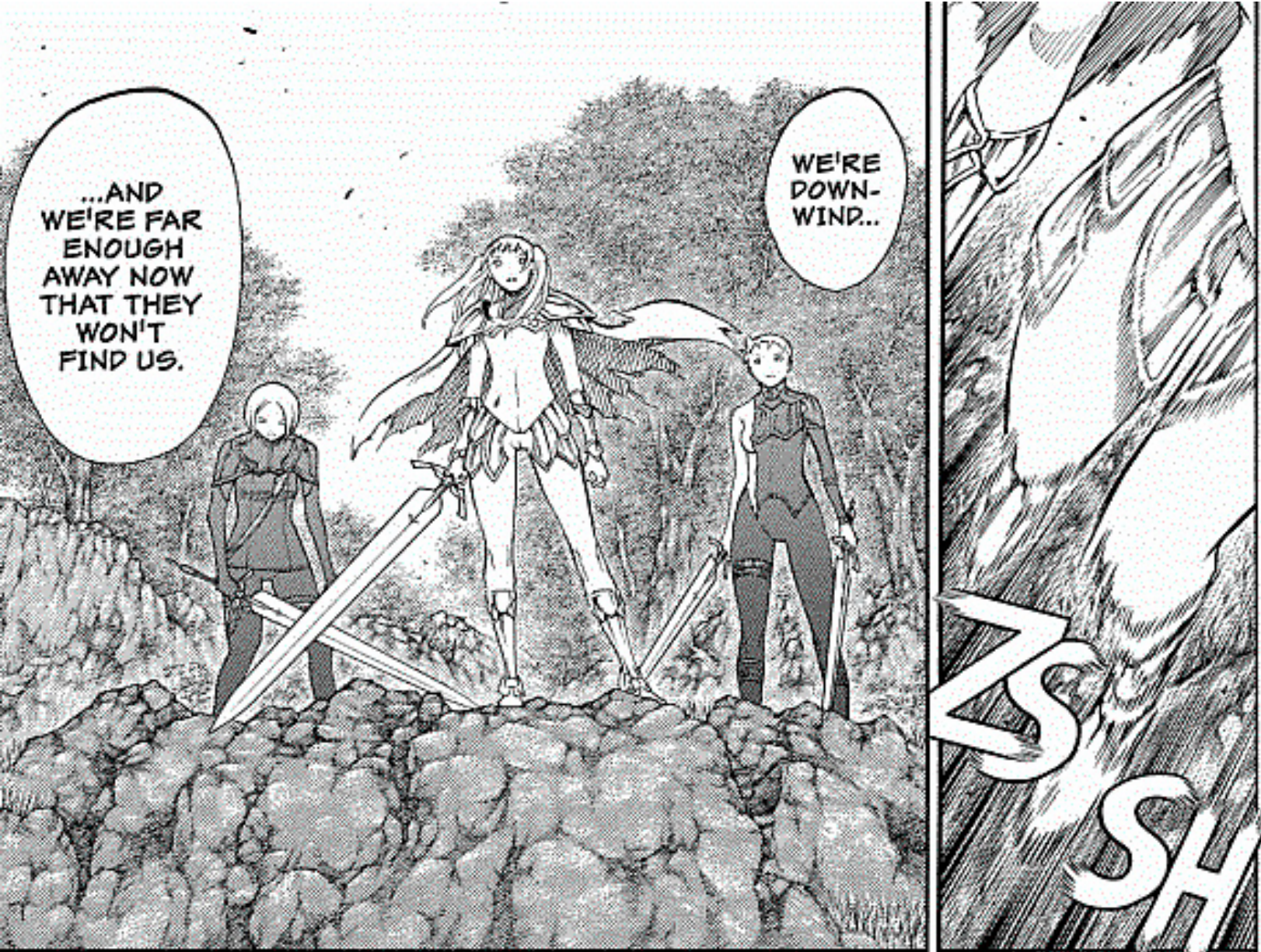
...AS
WEAPONS
AGAINST
THE
CREATURES
OF THE
ABYSS.





...AND
WE'RE FAR
ENOUGH
AWAY NOW
THAT THEY
WON'T
FIND US.

WE'RE
DOWN-
WIND...



I MIGHT
NOT BE
ABLE TO
FIX IT.

I RE-
ATTACHED
MY ARM,
BUT I'M
HAVING
TROUBLE
WITH MY
EYE.

HOW
ARE
YOUR
WOUNDS?

...YOU
CAN'T SAY
WE'RE NOT
INVOLVED.

I WANT YOU
TO TELL US
WHAT THOSE
THINGS ARE.

WITH
ALL
THAT'S
HAP-
PENED
NOW...

HEHEHE~

THEY TOOK
THE BODIES
OF THE ELEVEN
AWAKENED
ONES THAT
HAD ATTACKED
THEIR HEAD-
QUARTERS
AND STARTED
EXPERIMENTING
WITH THEM.

SEVEN
YEARS AGO,
AROUND
THE SAME
TIME AS THE
BATTLE OF
THE NORTH,
THE ORGANI-
ZATION
ENDED ONE
LINE OF
RESEARCH
AND BEGAN
ANOTHER.

...

...BUT OF
AWAKENED
ONES.

THEY
CREATED
A NEW
BREED OF
WARRIOR
USING THE
FLESH NOT
OF YOMA...

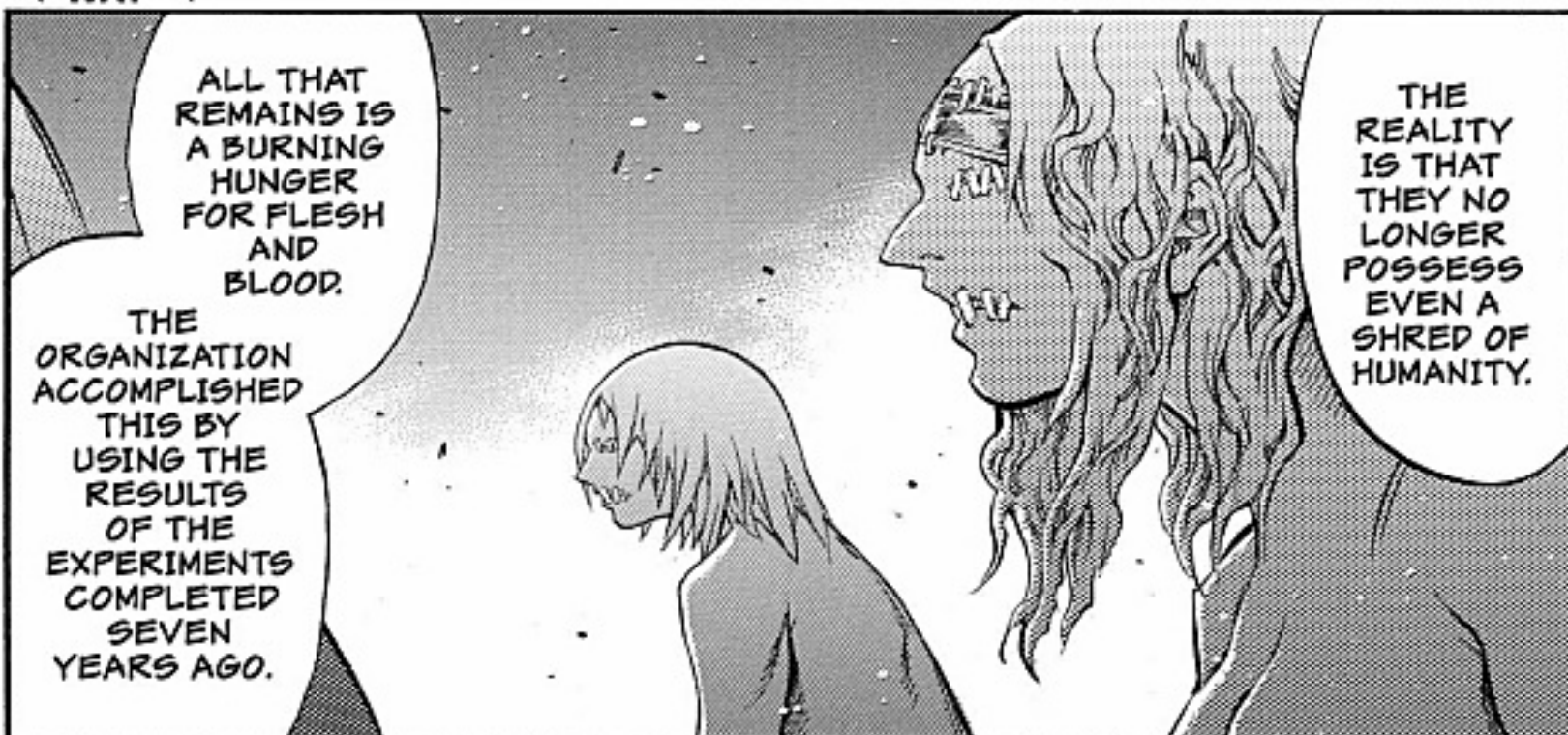
INSTEAD OF
CREATING
HUMANS WHO
POSSESS
MONSTROUS
QUALITIES,
THE ORGANI-
ZATION
CREATED
MONSTERS
IN HUMAN
FORM.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE THINGS
THAT CAME
INTO BEING
CAN'T BE
CALLED
WARRIORS
AT ALL.

THAT'S
IN-
SANE.

IF
THEY
DID
THAT,
THEN—

WHAT
...?



ALL THAT REMAINS IS A BURNING HUNGER FOR FLESH AND BLOOD.

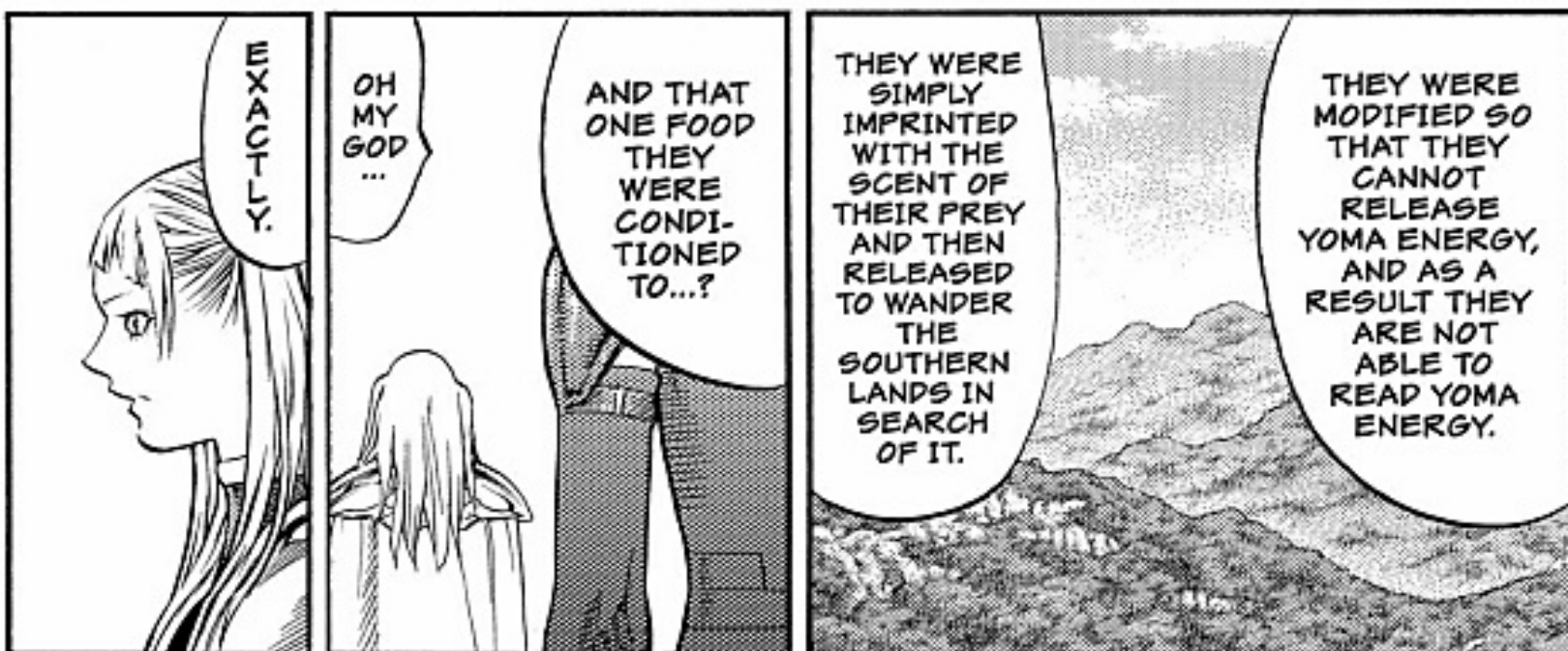
THE ORGANIZATION ACCOMPLISHED THIS BY USING THE RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS COMPLETED SEVEN YEARS AGO.

THE REALITY IS THAT THEY NO LONGER POSSESS EVEN A SHRED OF HUMANITY.



THEIR EYES WERE RIPPED OUT AND THEIR MOUTHS SEWN UP. THEY WERE MADE INTO CREATURES THAT WOULD ENDLESSLY PURSUE THE PREY THAT WAS ALLOTTED TO THEM.

THE SUBJECTS' SENSE OF SELF WAS TORN OUT FROM THE ROOTS, AND THEY WERE CONDITIONED TO CRAVE ONLY A SINGLE SOURCE OF FOOD.



EXACTLY.

OH MY GOD ...

AND THAT ONE FOOD THEY WERE CONDITIONED TO...?

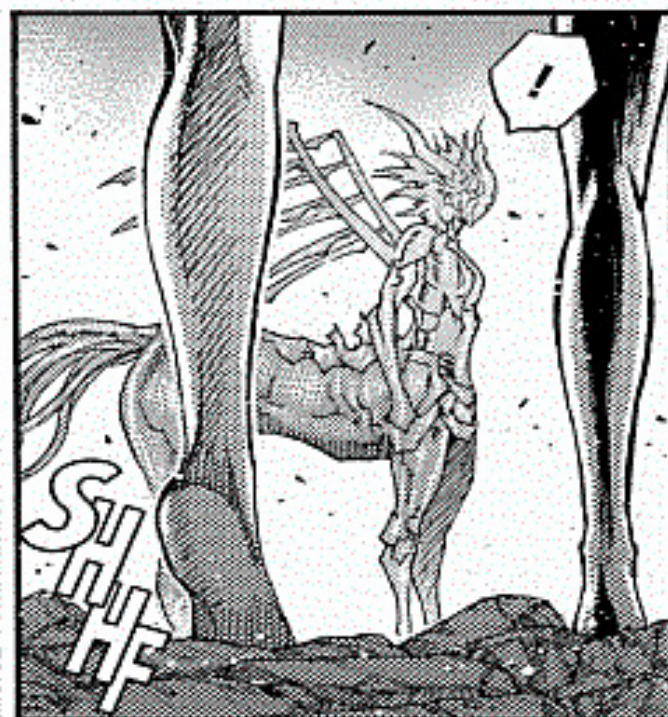
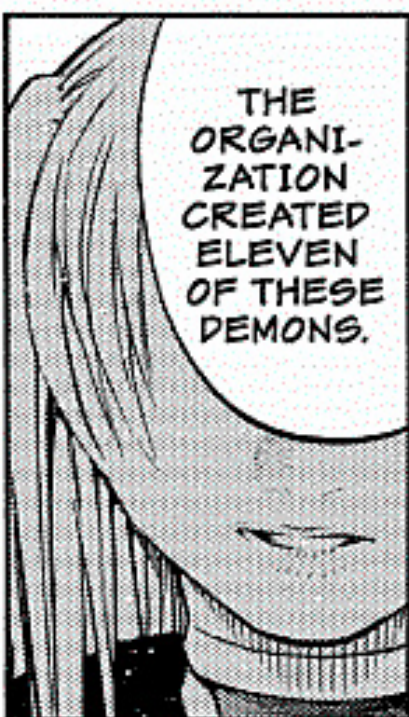
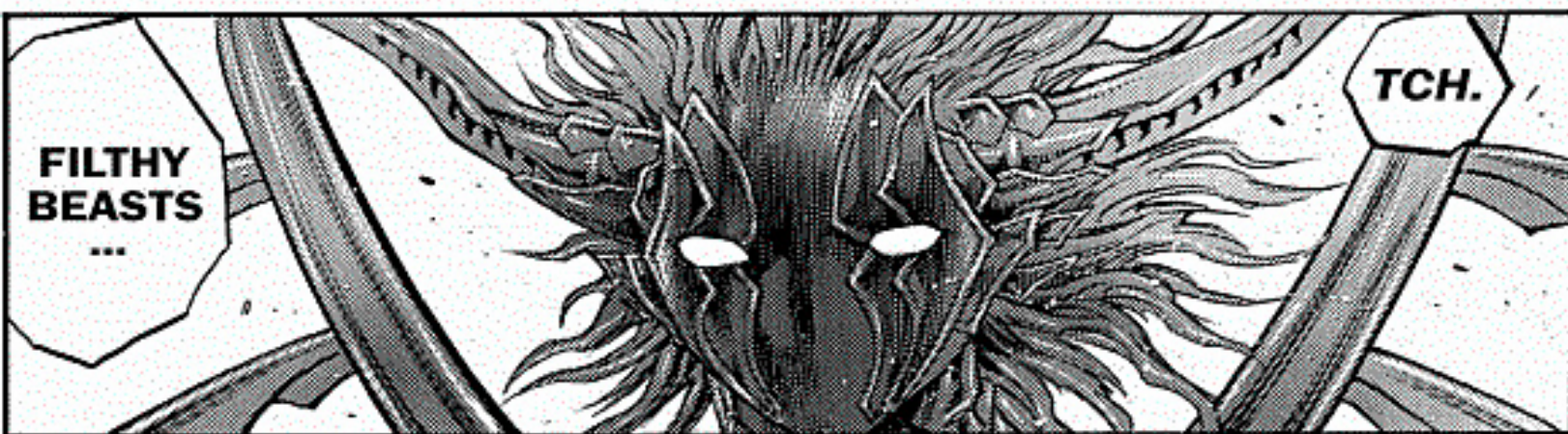
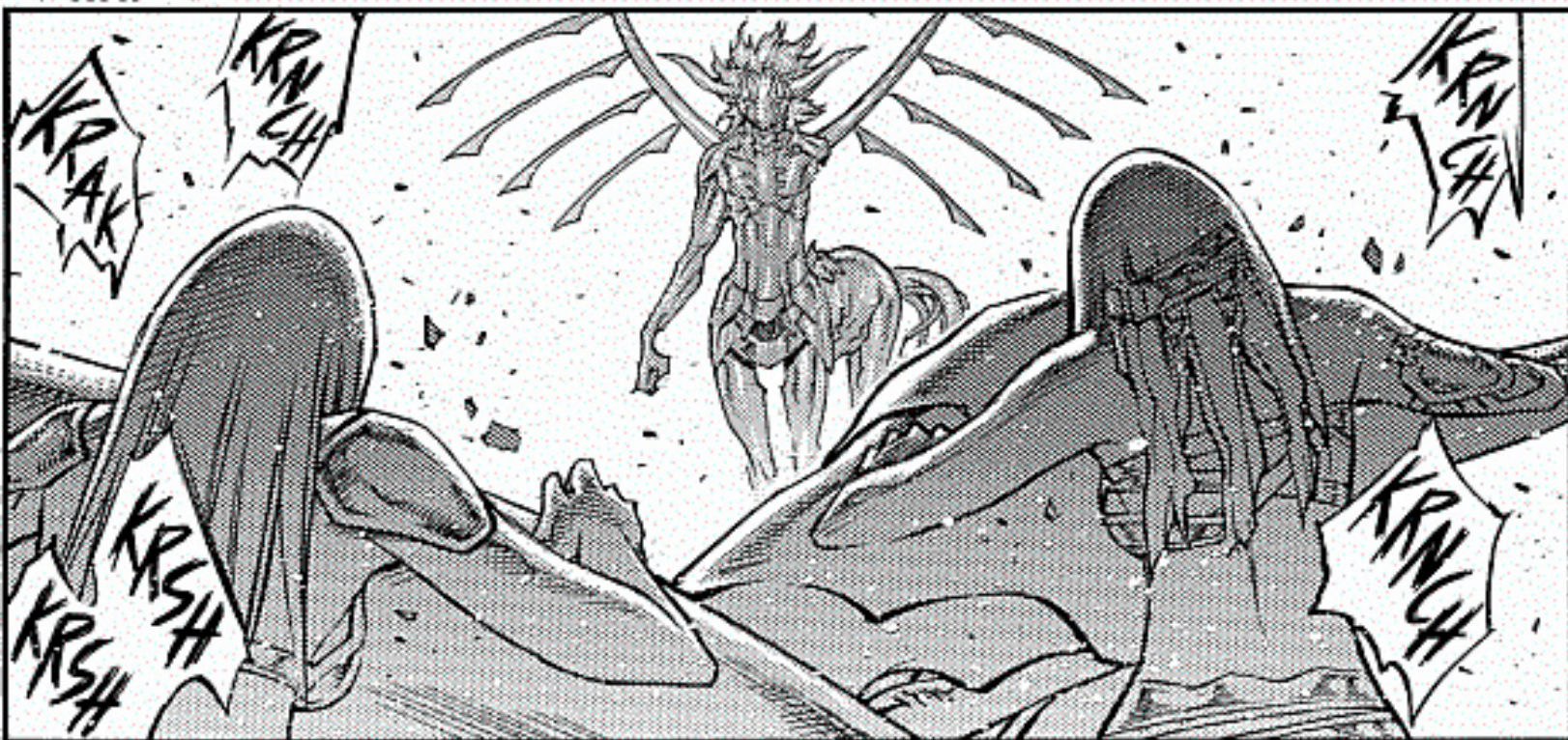
THEY WERE SIMPLY IMPRINTED WITH THE SCENT OF THEIR PREY AND THEN RELEASED TO WANDER THE SOUTHERN LANDS IN SEARCH OF IT.

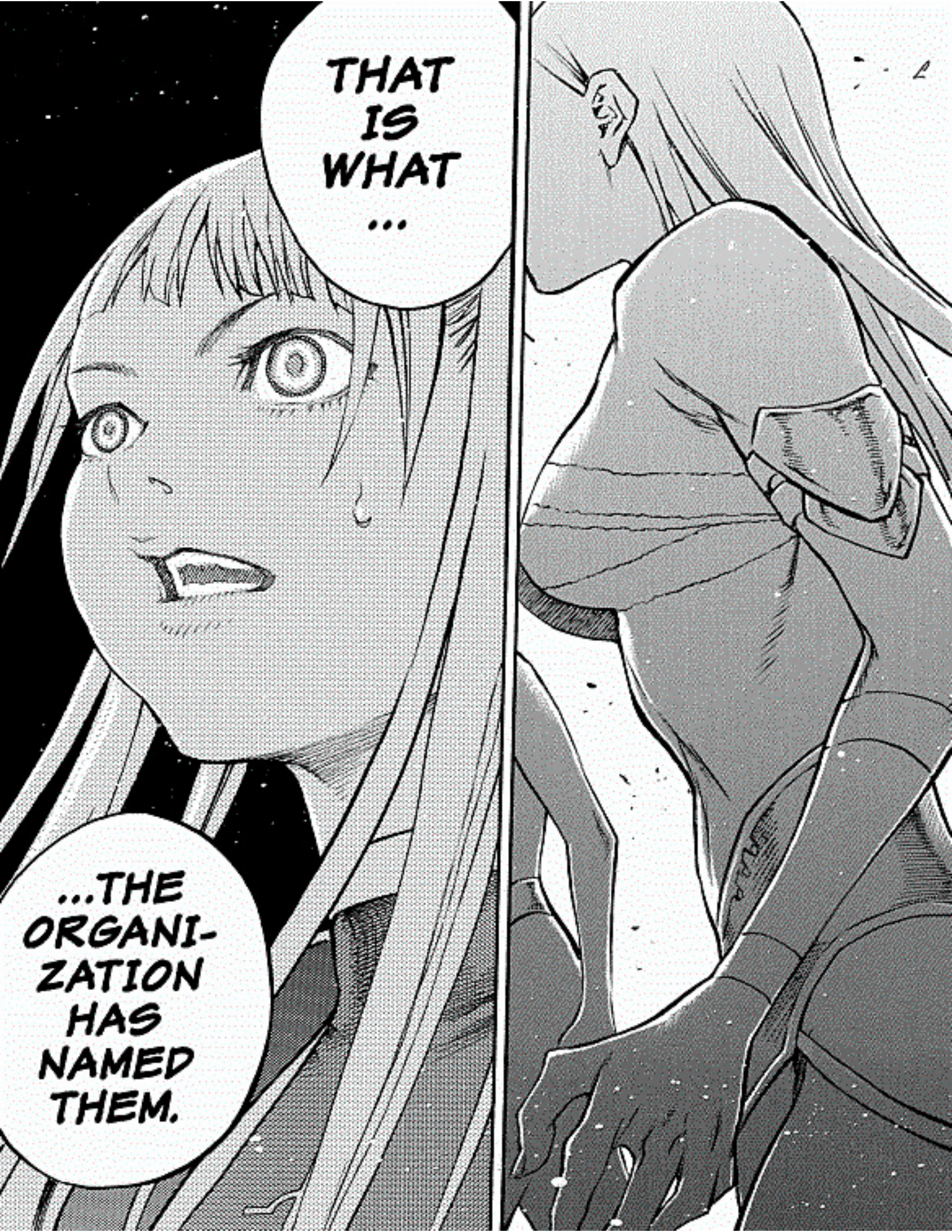
THEY WERE MODIFIED SO THAT THEY CANNOT RELEASE YOMA ENERGY, AND AS A RESULT THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO READ YOMA ENERGY.

A
PIECE
OF
ISLEY'S
FLESH.

AGENTS
OF THE
ORGANI-
ZATION
OBTAINED
IT HERE
IN THE
SOUTH.



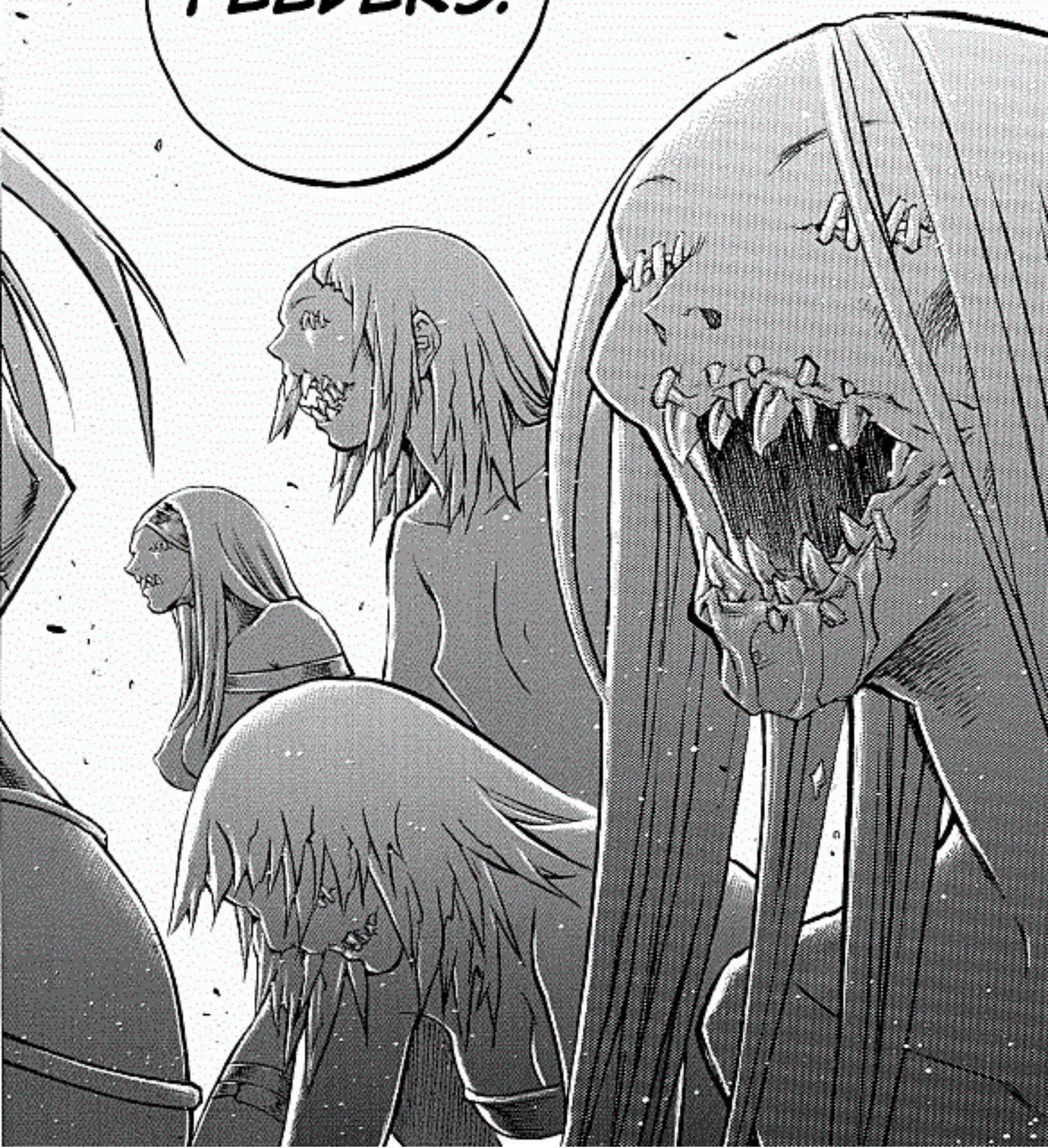




THAT
IS
WHAT
...

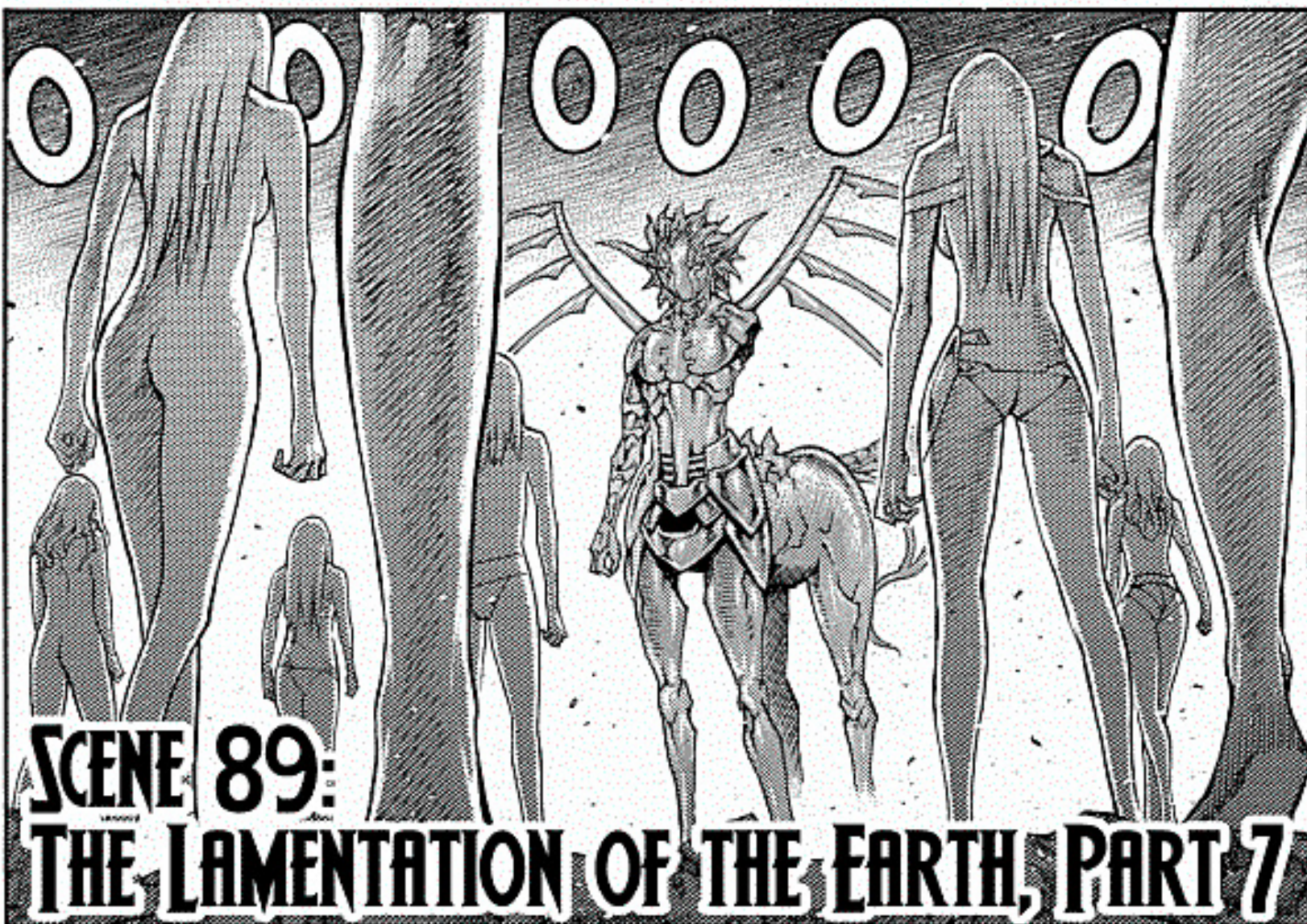
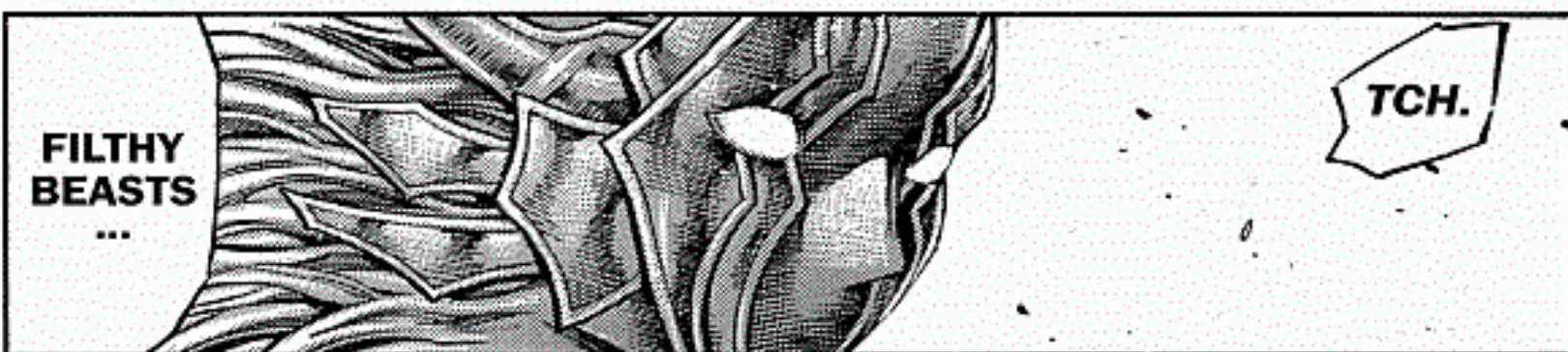
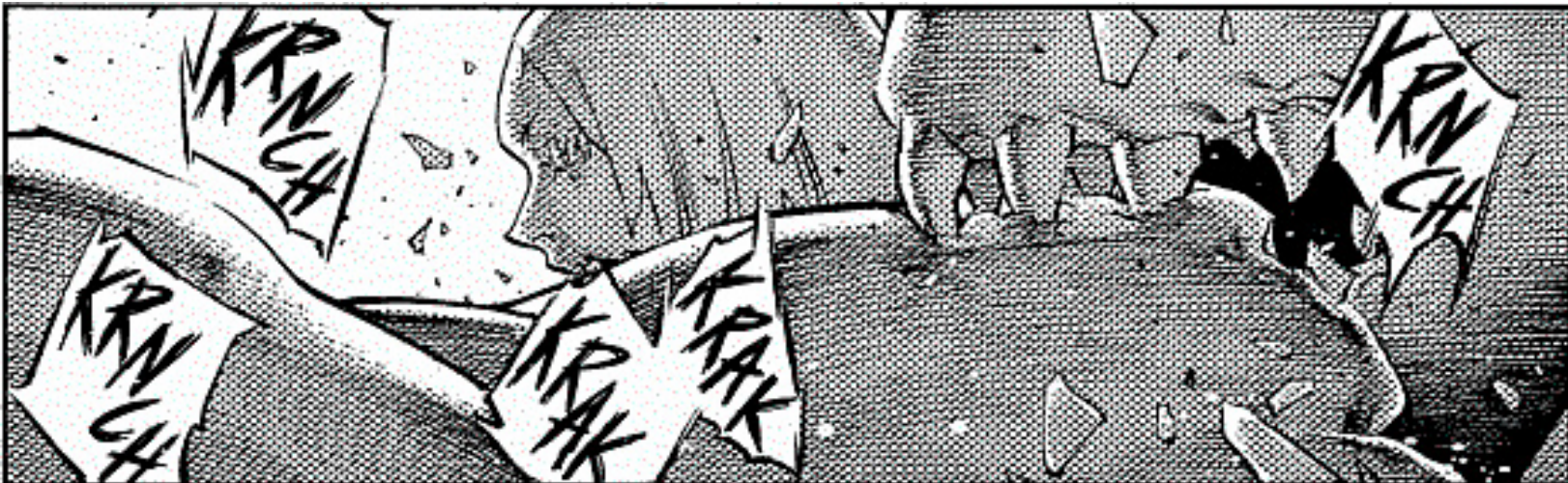
...THE
ORGANI-
ZATION
HAS
NAMED
THEM.

**ABYSS
FEEDERS.**



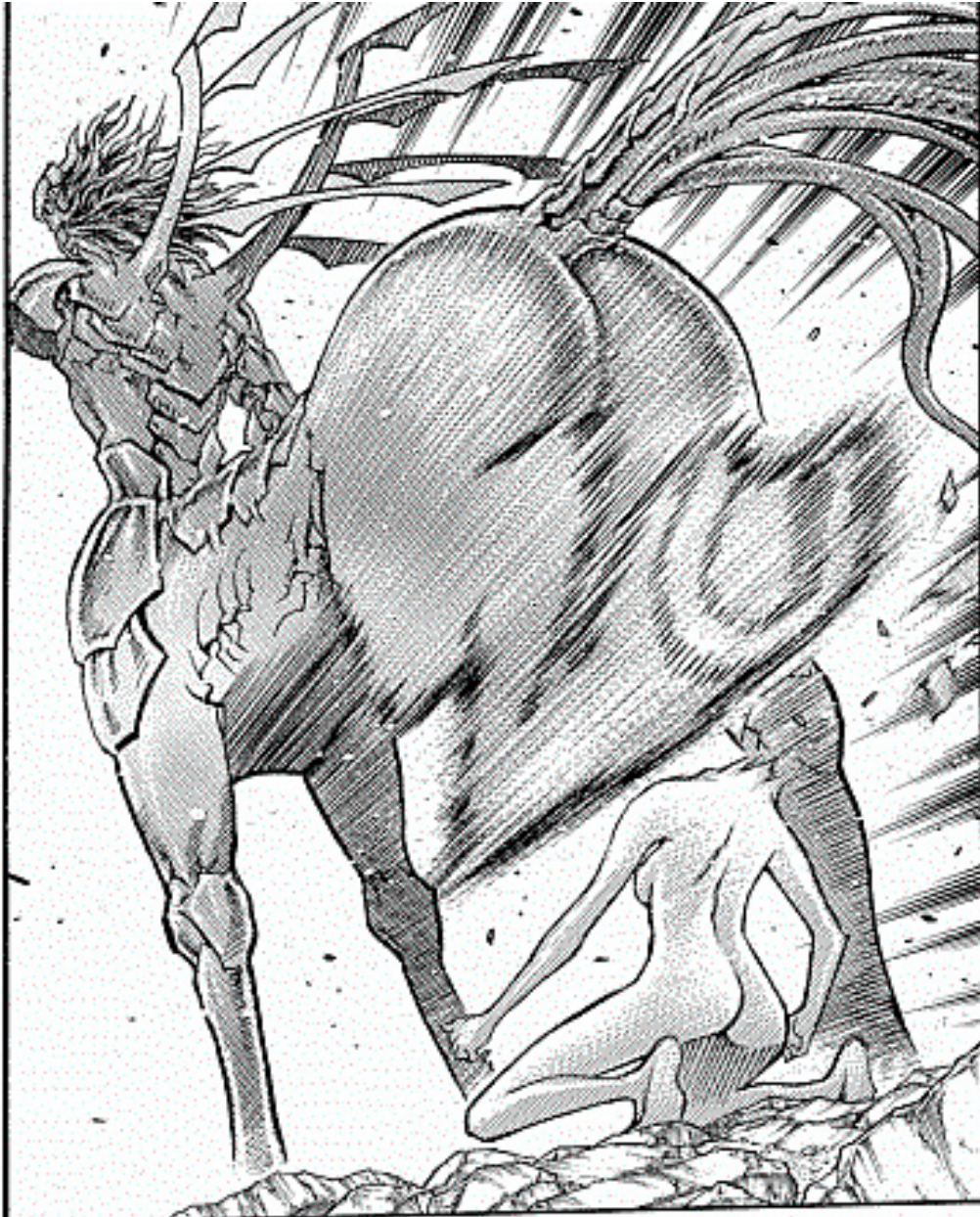


グレイブ



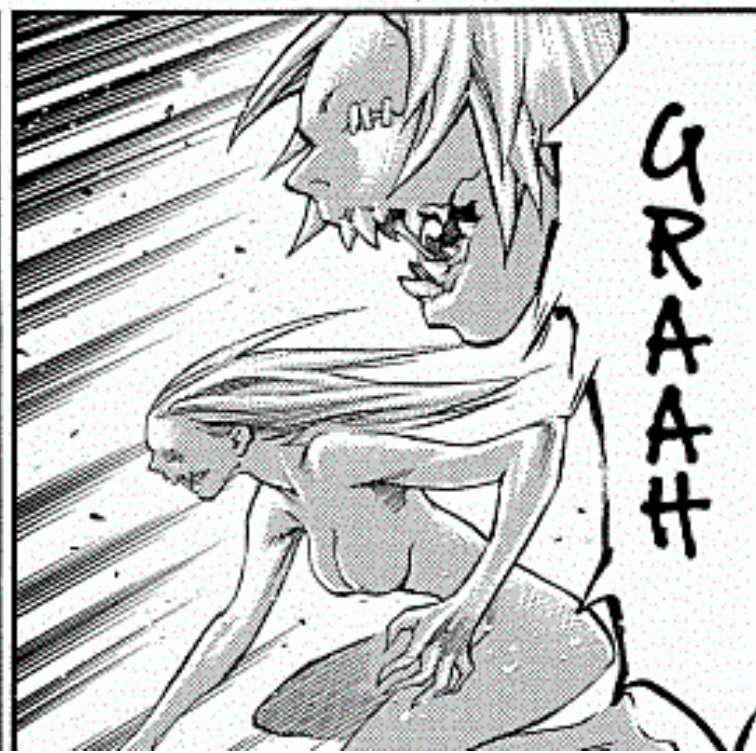
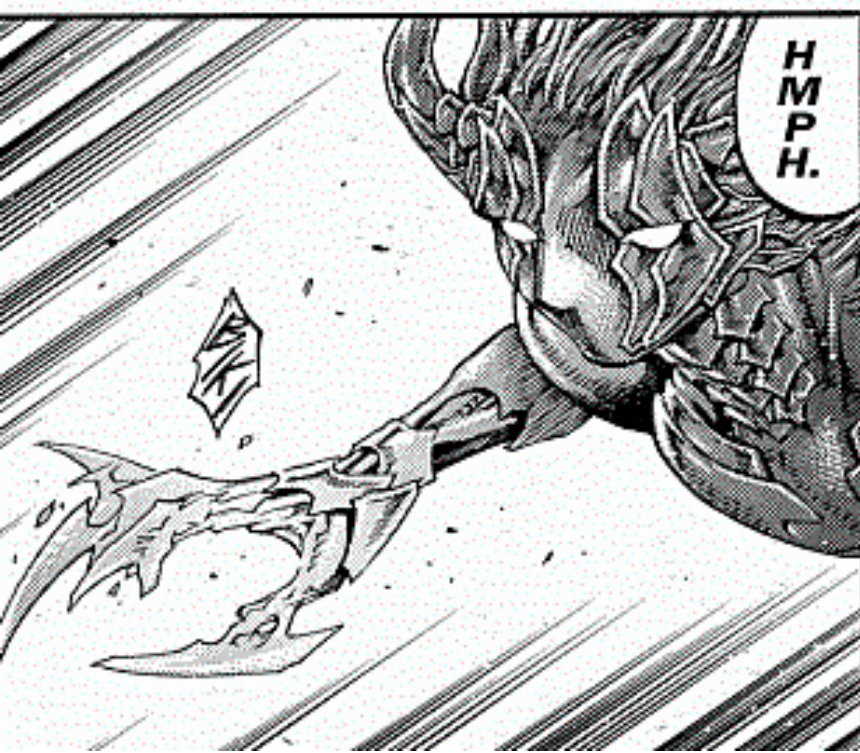
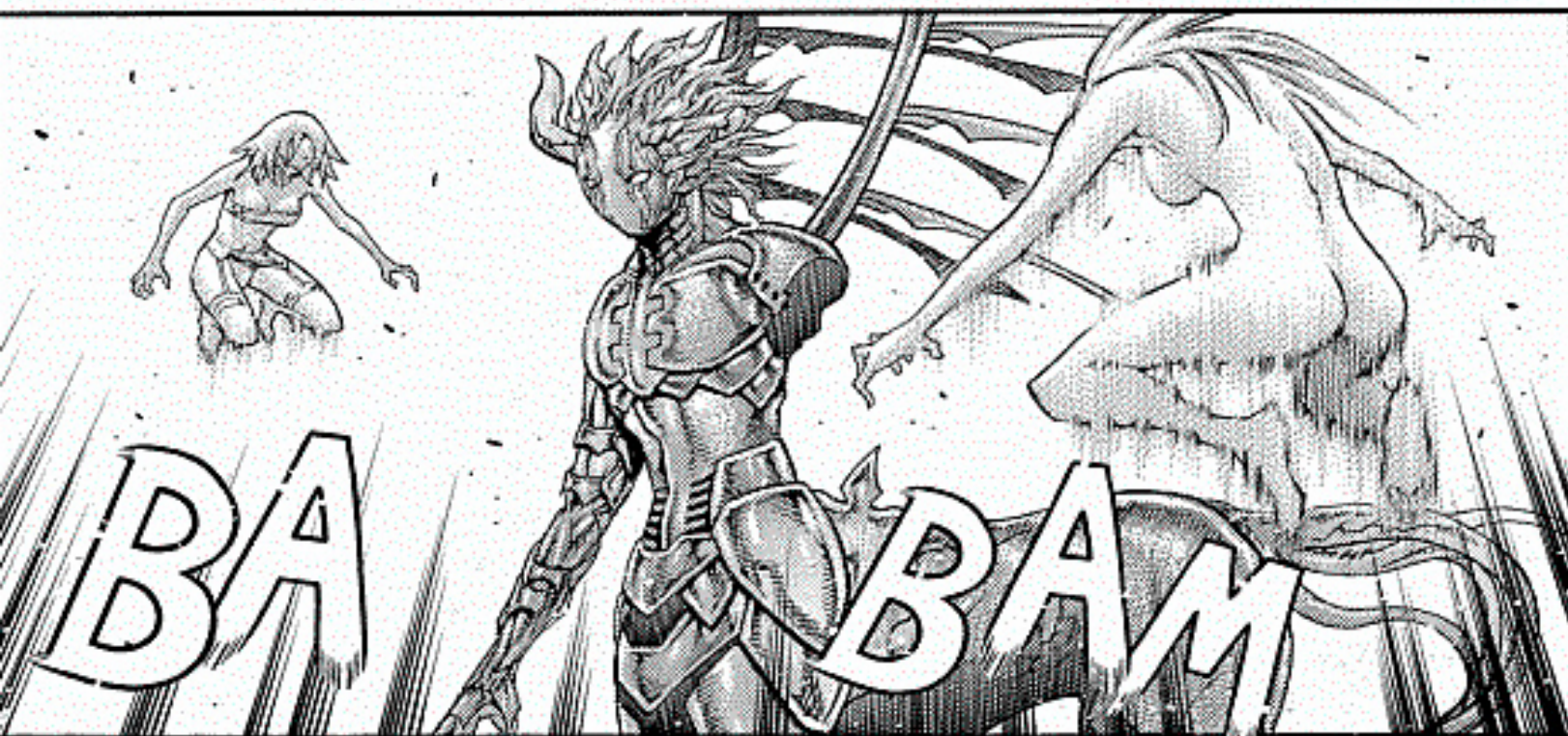


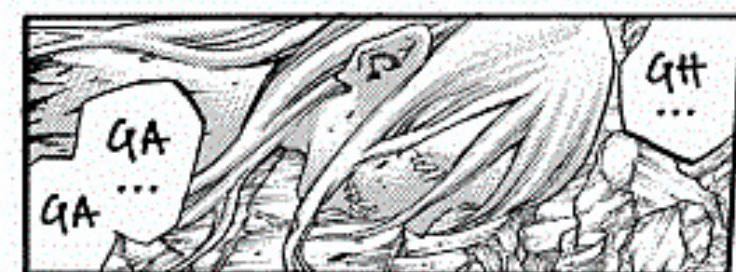
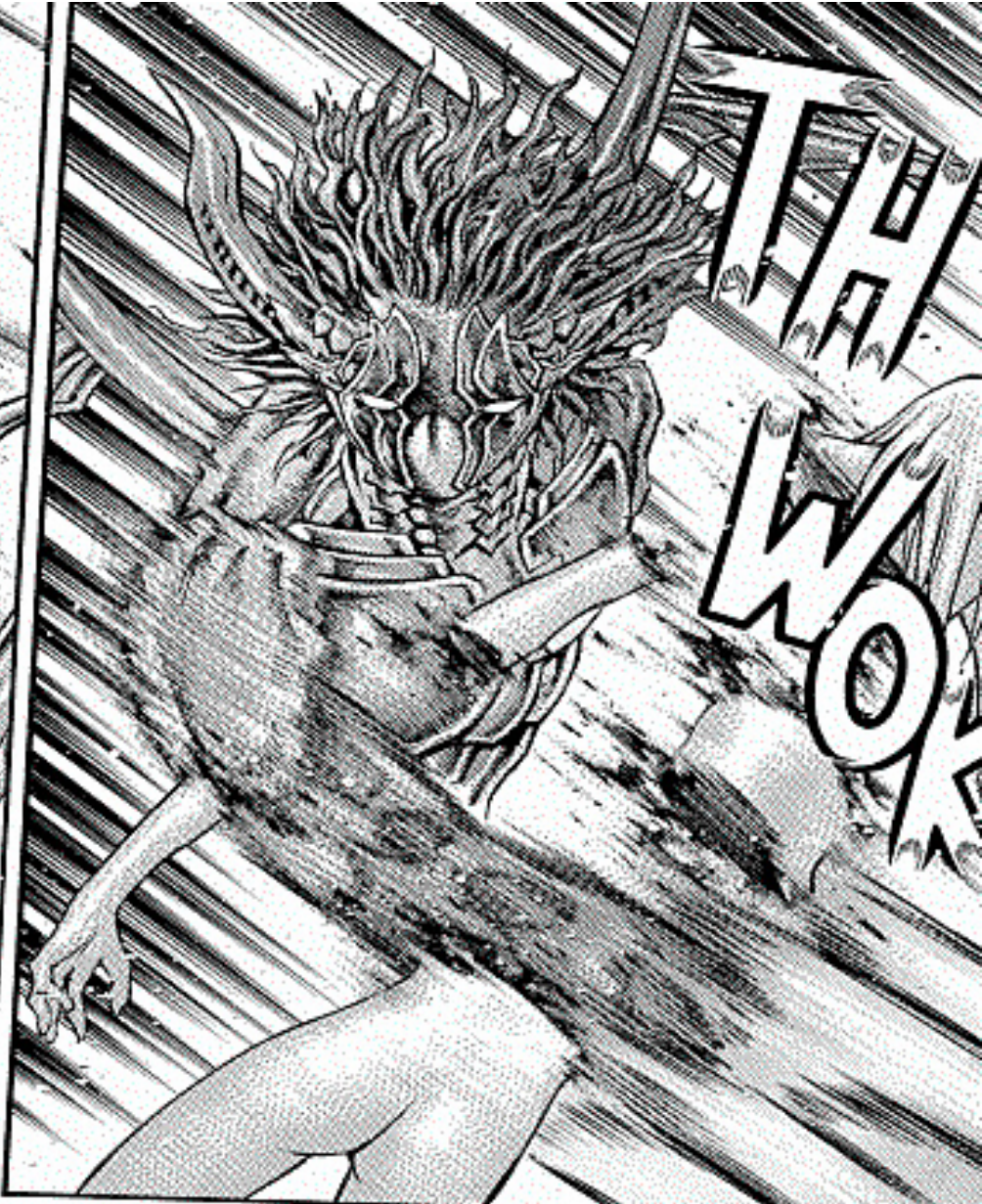
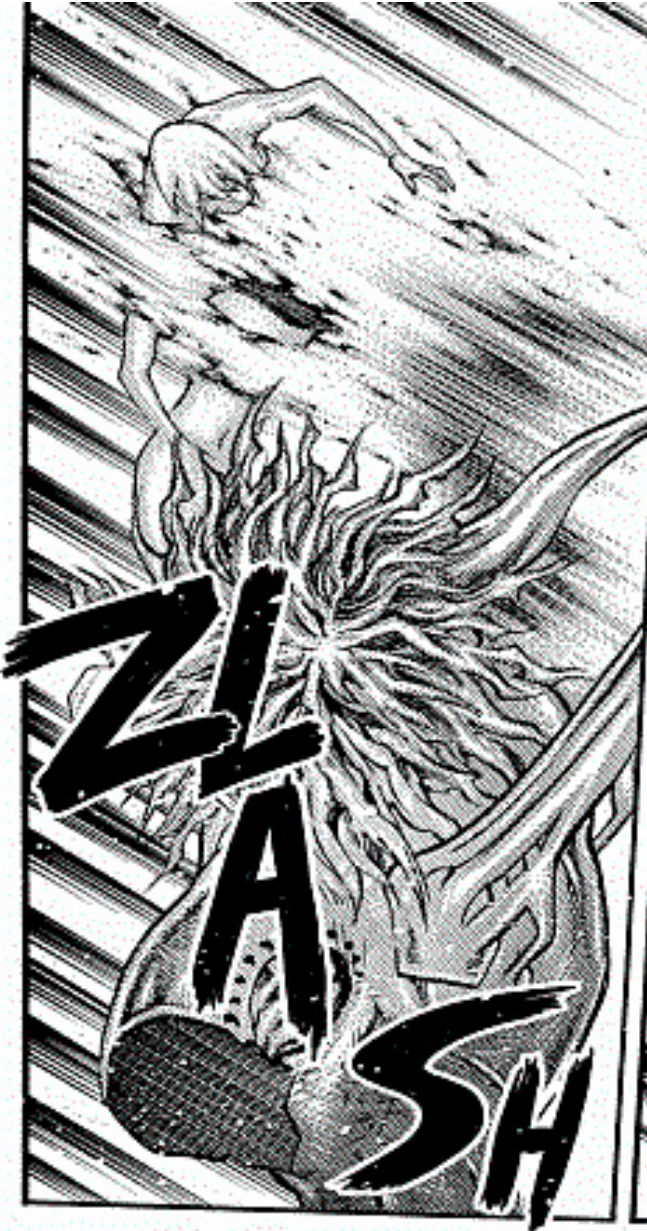


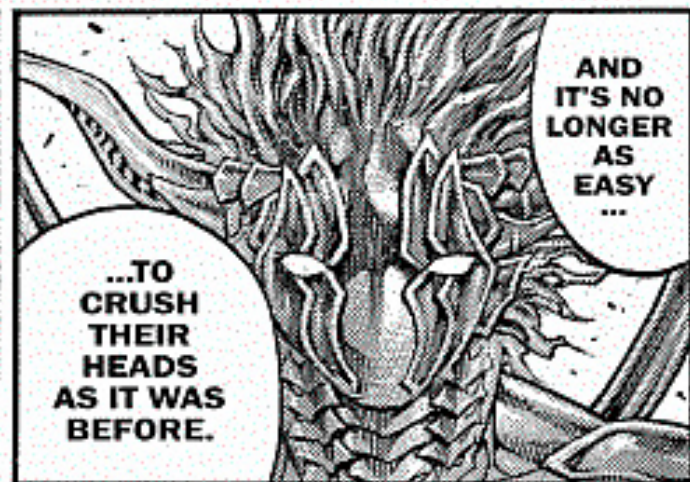
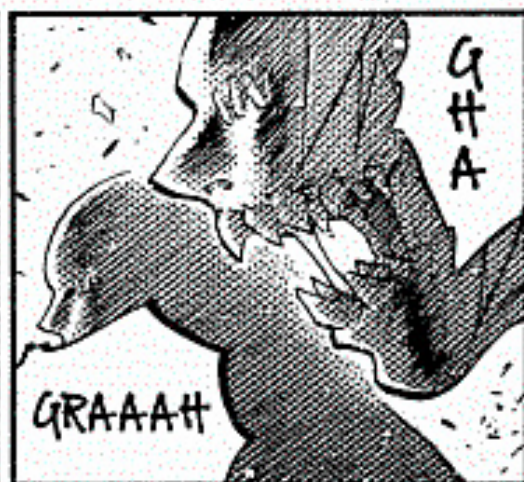
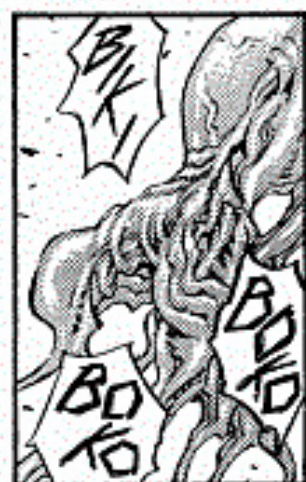
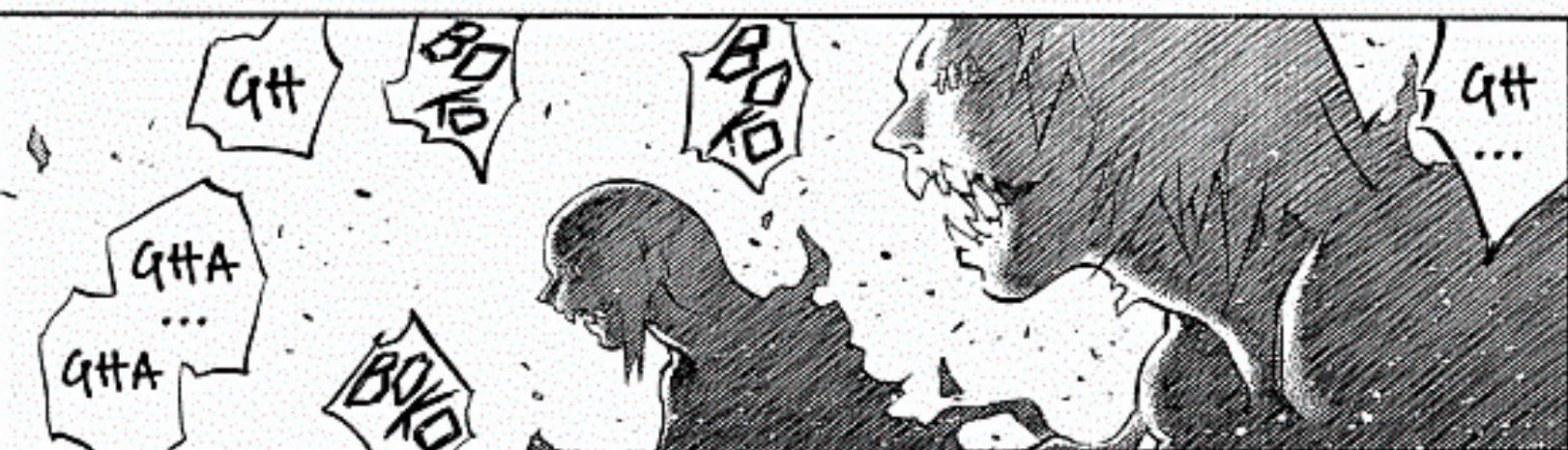
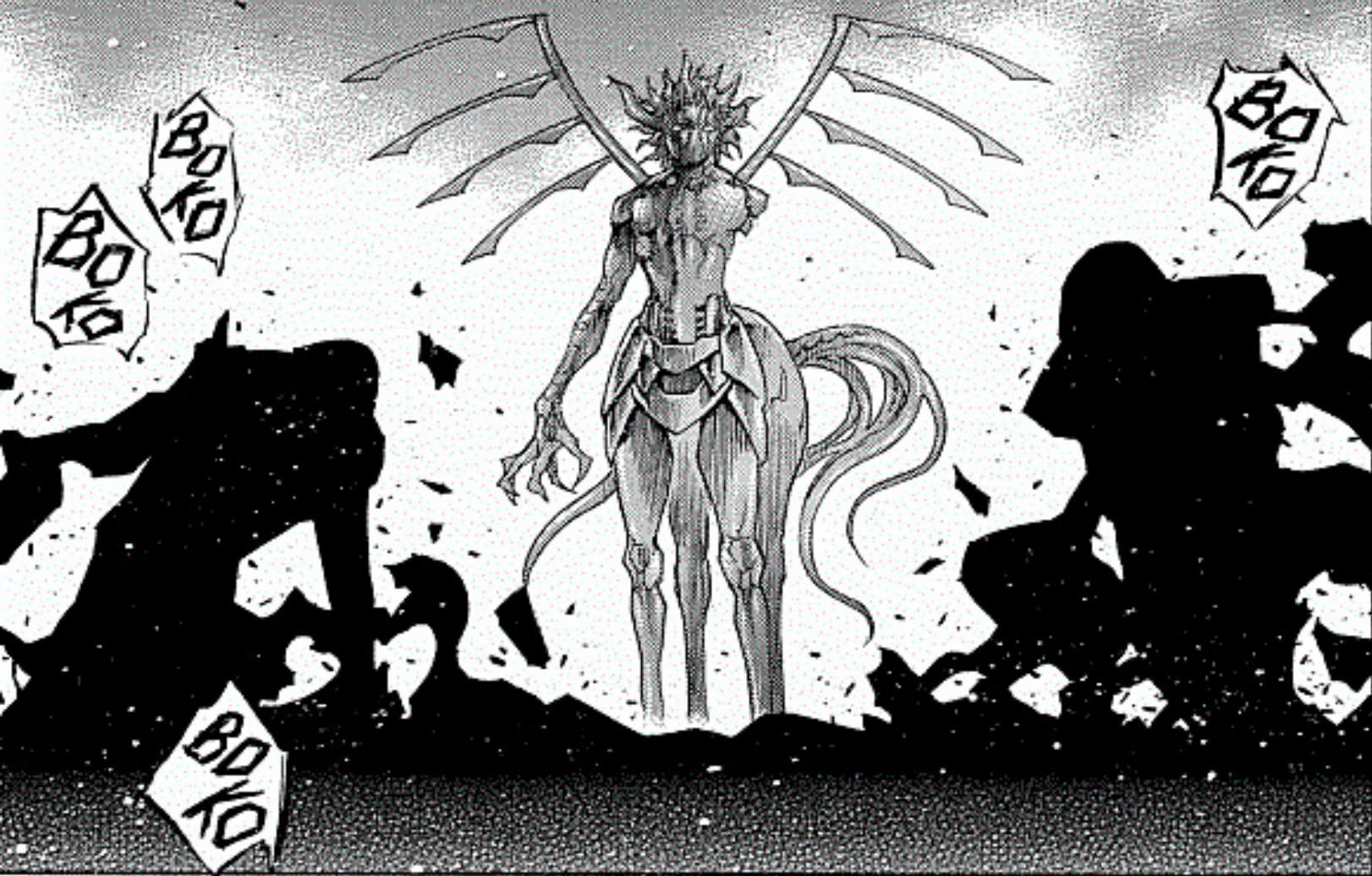


THEY
WON'T
EVEN GIVE
ME A
CHANCE
TO REGEN-
ERATE.

HOW
IRRITA-
TING...







SHA

A large, muscular, horned demon with a spiked collar and a long sword. The demon has a fierce expression and is holding a long, ornate sword. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

K

...I
MUST
RELY
ON MY
SWORD.

ONCE
AGAIN,
IN THE
END...

THIS
TIME I'LL
WIPE YOU
FROM
THE FACE
OF THE
EARTH.

COME.



...A
GROUP
OF
ELEVEN
DEMONS.

SO THE
ORGANI-
ZATION
CREATED
...

HOW
MANY
HAVE
SURVIVED
UNTIL
NOW?

OR AT
LEAST
THERE
WERE
ELEVEN
WHEN
THEY
STARTED
OUT.

AND
THAT'S
HOW NEW
DEMONS—
NEW
ABYSS
FEEDERS—
ARE
CREATED.

AWAKENED
ONE
HUNTING
PARTIES
CONTINUE
TO
GATHER
NEW
FLESH.

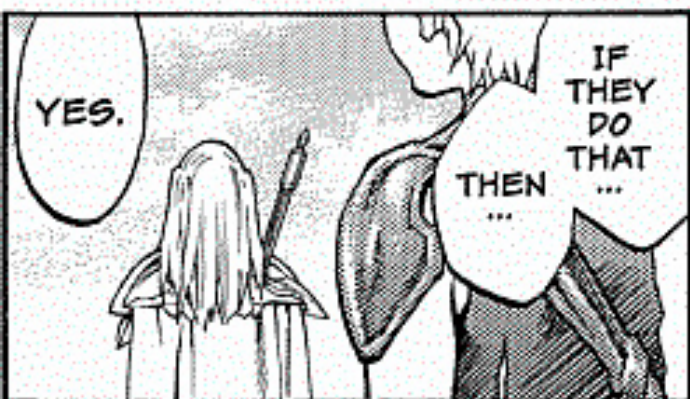
IT WAS
PROGRAMMED
INTO THEIR
CONSCIOUSNESS
THAT IF MORE
THAN HALF
OF THEM—SIX—
ARE KILLED, THE
REST ARE TO
RETURN TO THE
ORGANIZATION
HEAD-
QUARTERS.

ALMOST
ALL OF THE
ORIGINAL
ELEVEN
ARE GONE.

THEY DON'T
HAVE AURAS,
AND THEY
SCATTER IN
DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS.

IT'S
HARD TO
PURSUE
THE
DEMONS
WHEN
THEY
RUN.

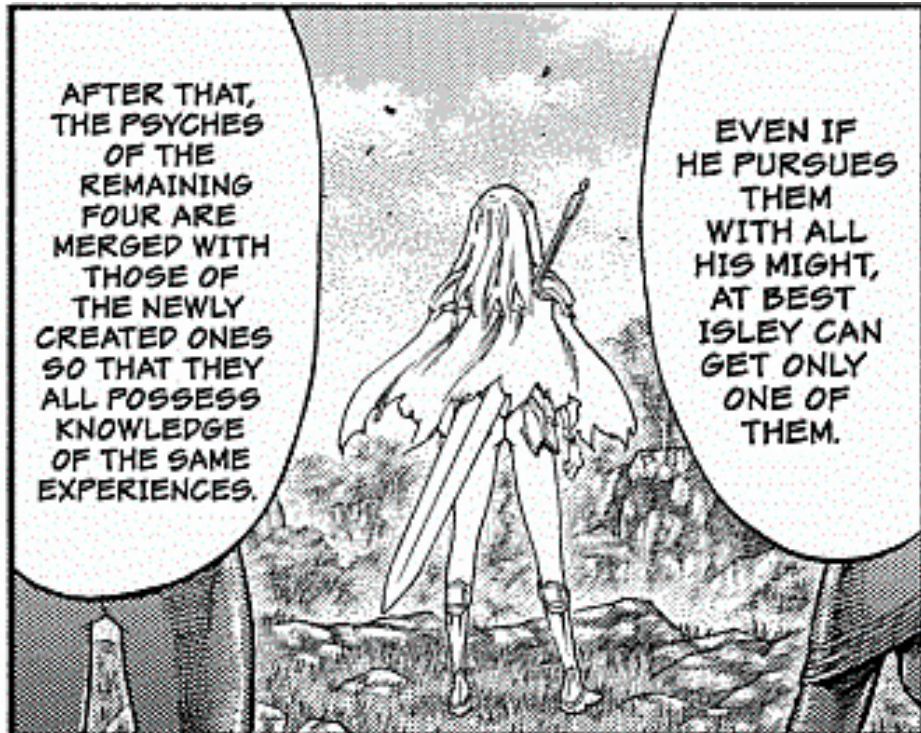




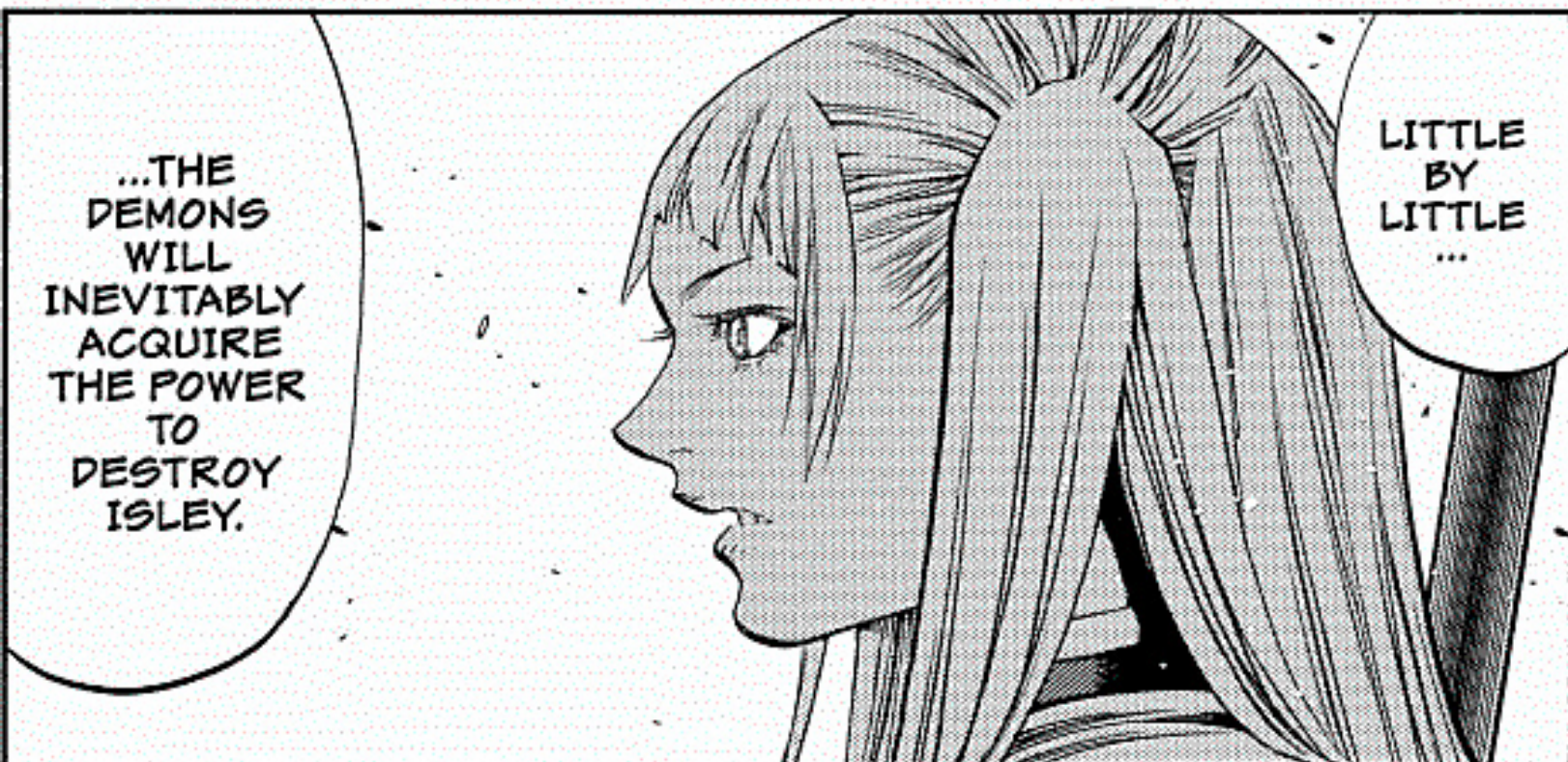
YES.

IF
THEY
DO
THAT
...
THEN
...

AFTER THAT,
THE PSYCHES
OF THE
REMAINING
FOUR ARE
MERGED WITH
THOSE OF
THE NEWLY
CREATED ONES
SO THAT THEY
ALL POSSESS
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE SAME
EXPERIENCES.

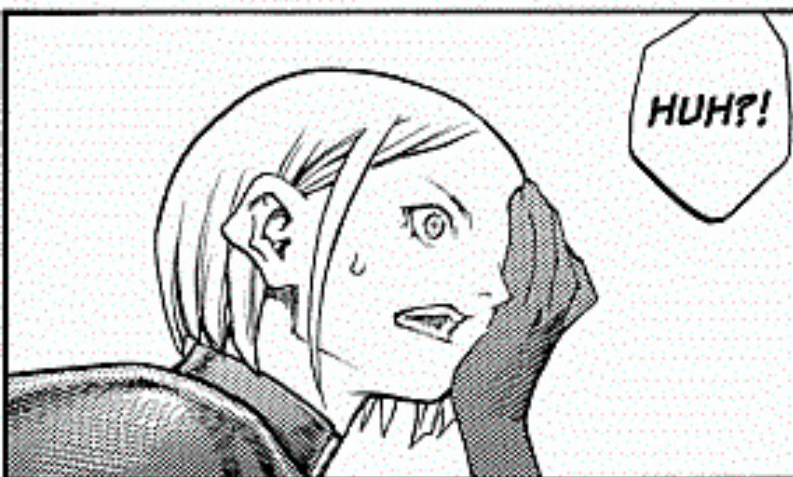


EVEN IF
HE PURSUES
THEM
WITH ALL
HIS MIGHT,
AT BEST
ISLEY CAN
GET ONLY
ONE OF
THEM.



...THE
DEMONS
WILL
INEVITABLY
ACQUIRE
THE POWER
TO
DESTROY
ISLEY.

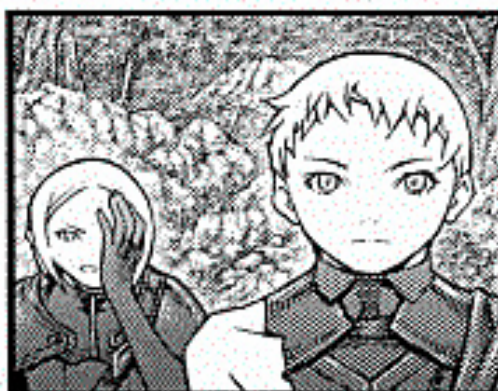
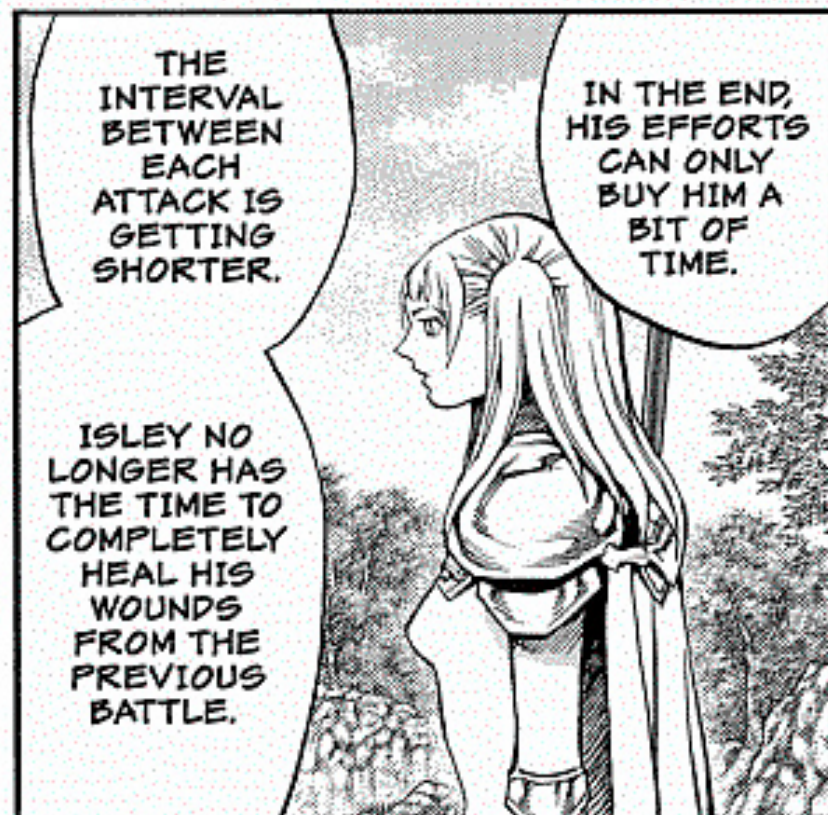
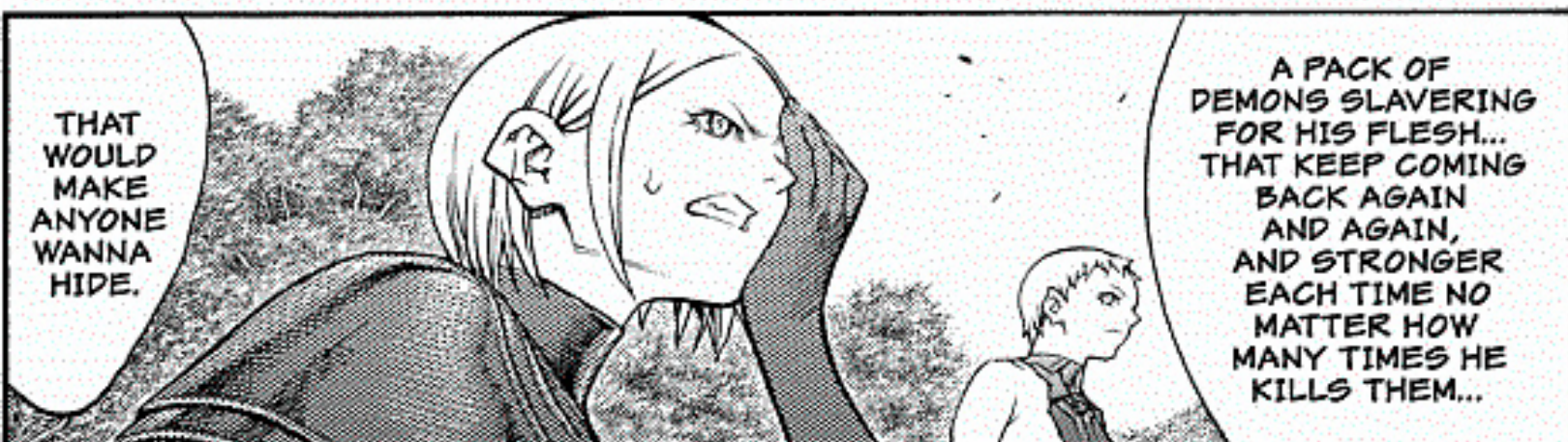
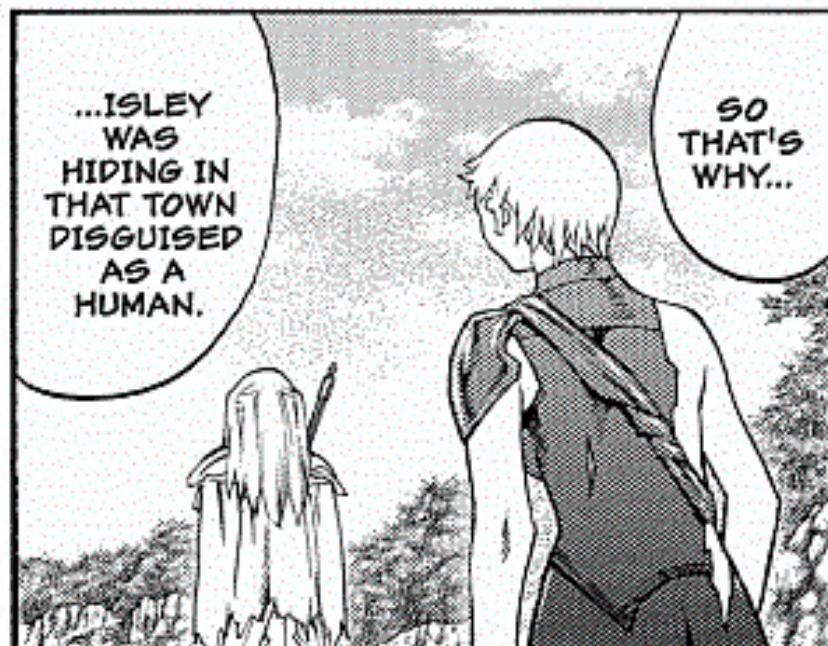
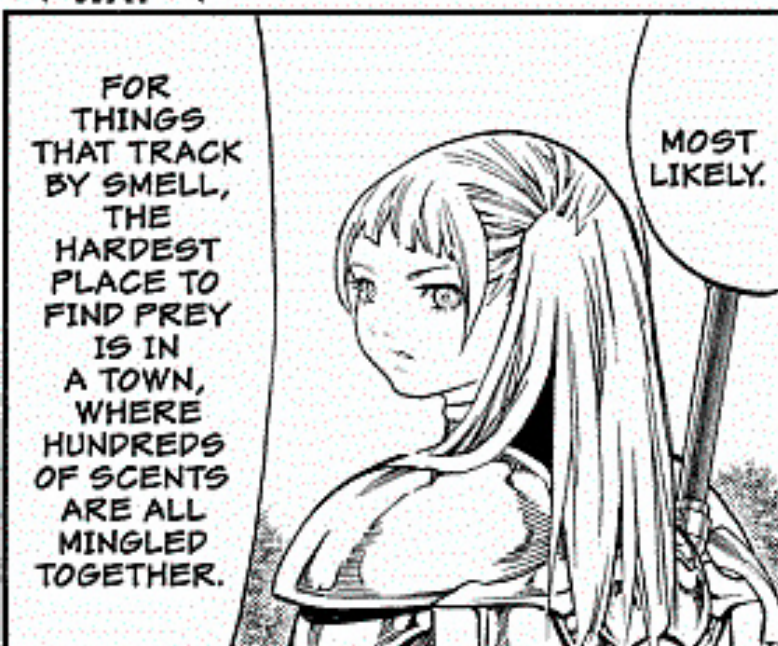
LITTLE
BY
LITTLE
...

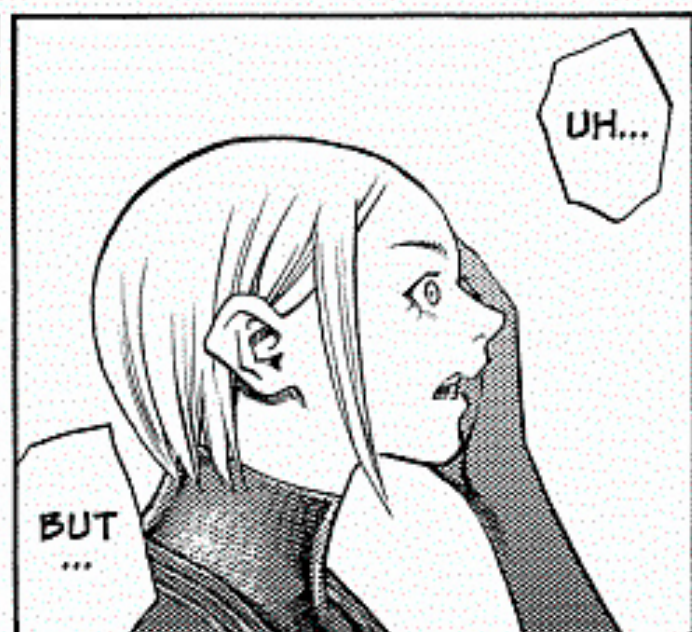
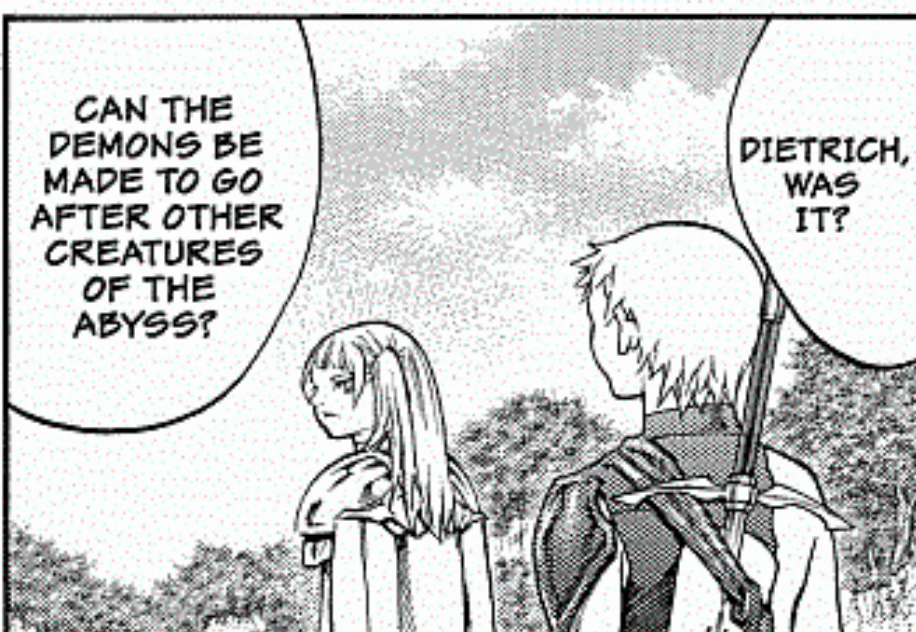
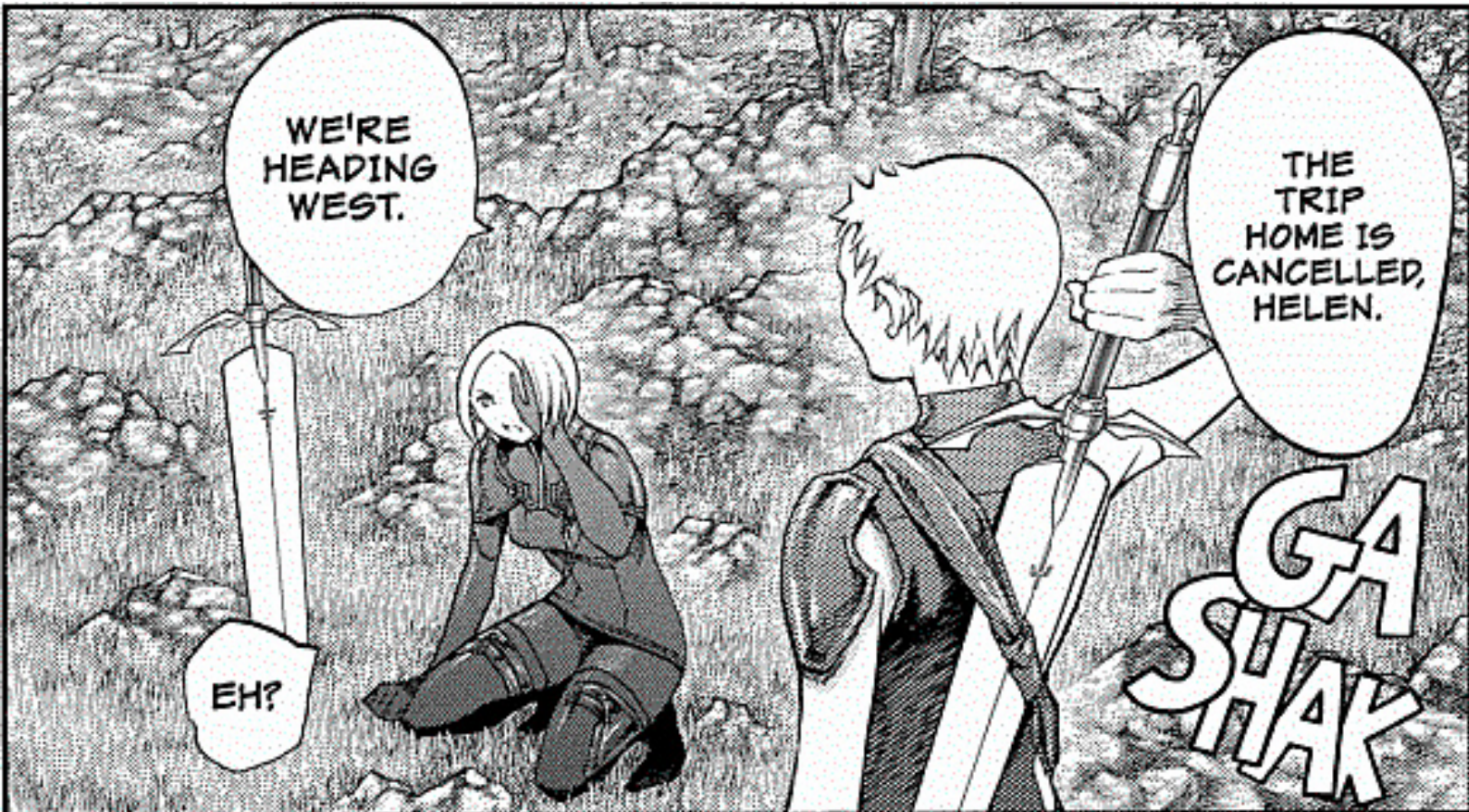


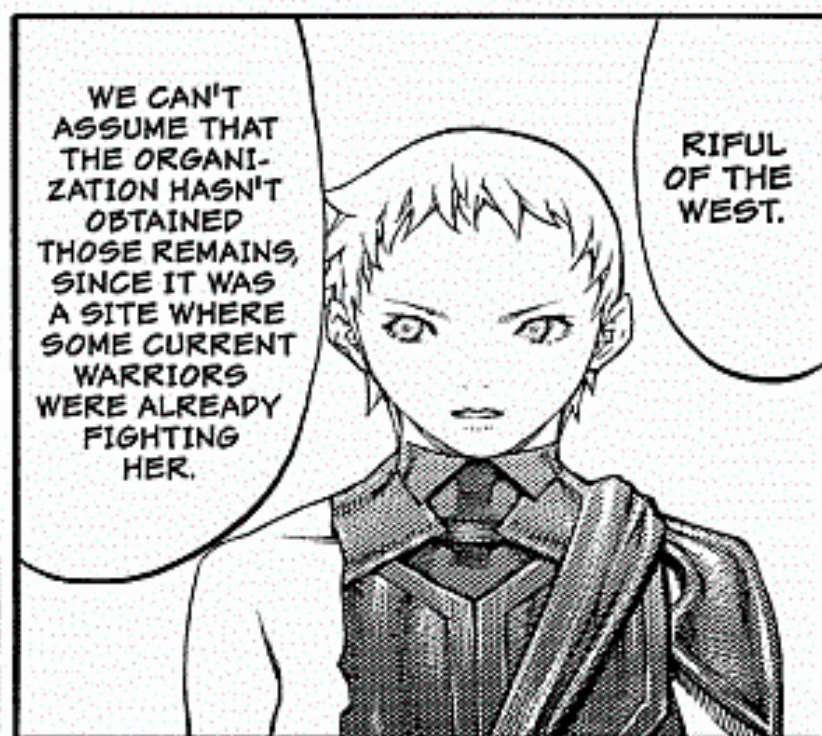
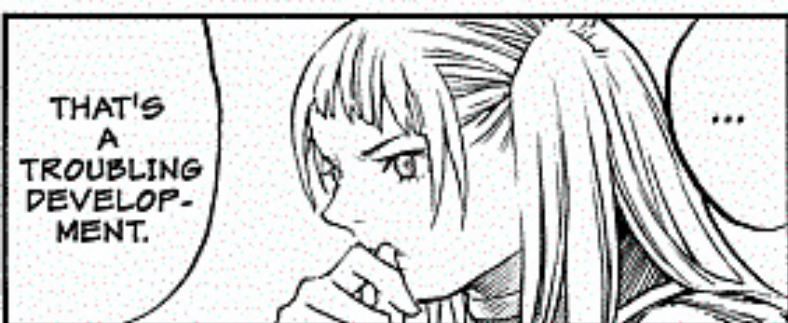
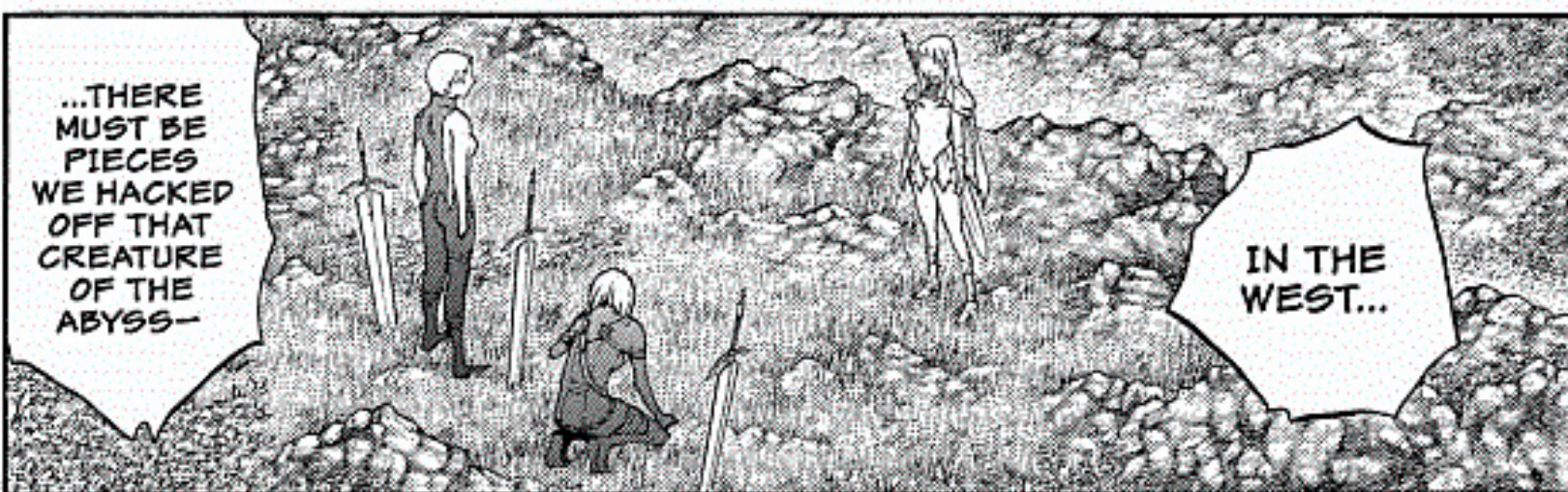
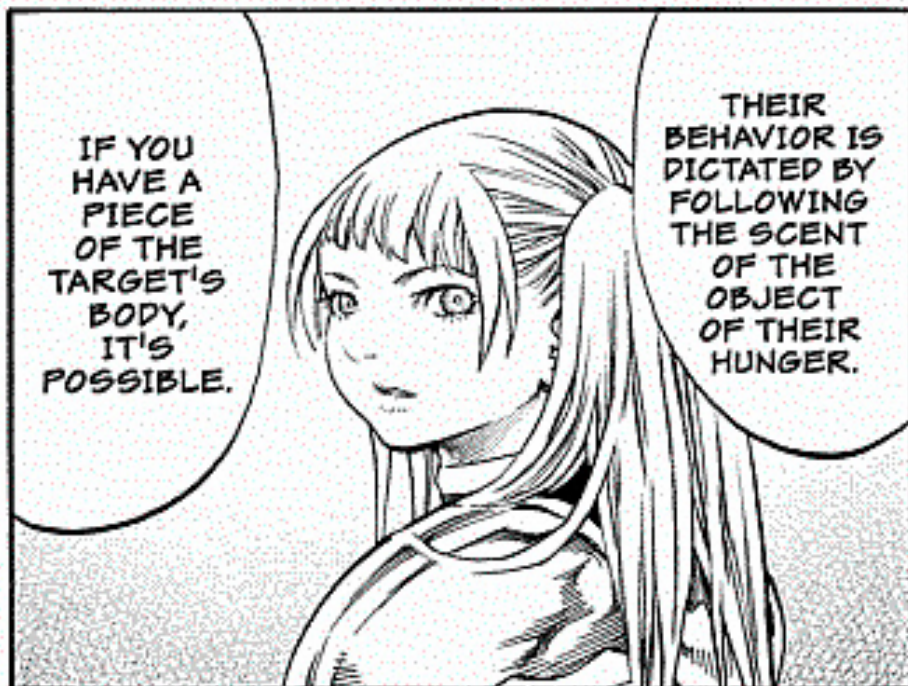
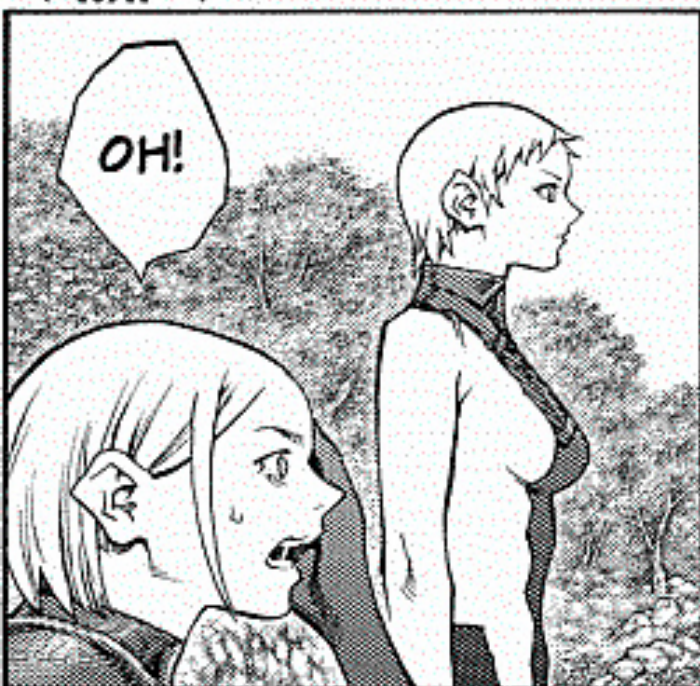
HUH?!



!!



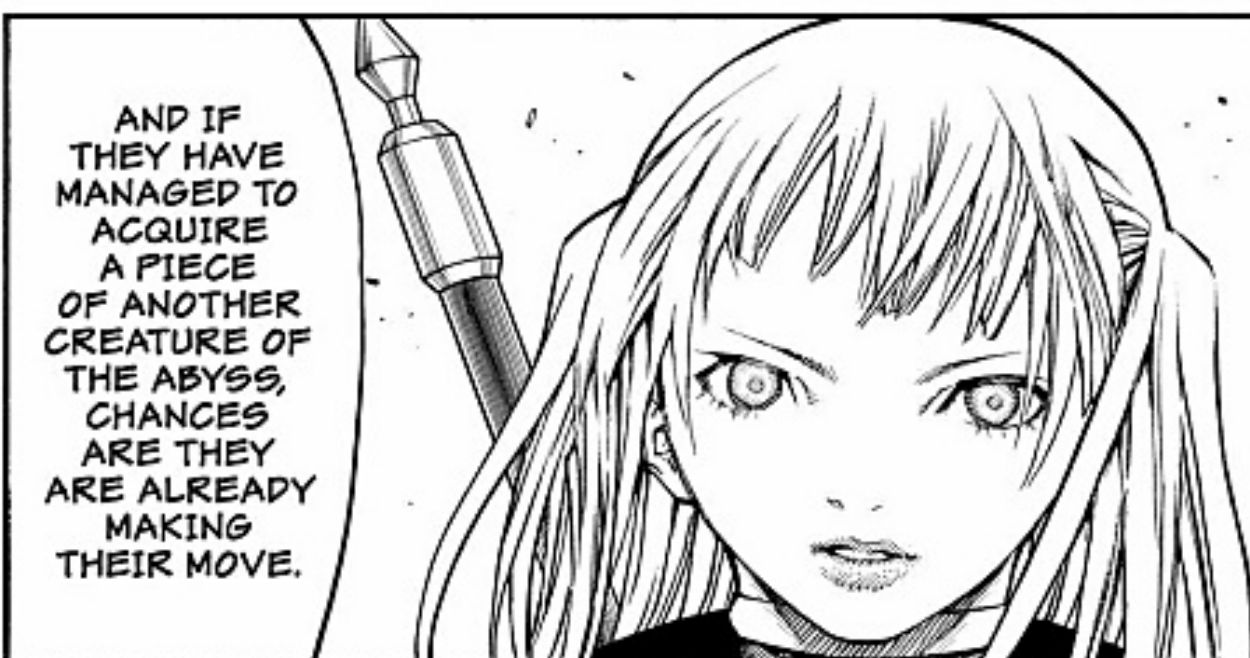






THEY CLAIM IT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO ARREST THE MOVEMENTS OF THE AWAKENED ONES AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE NORTH. BUT THE REAL REASON IS THAT THEY NEED FLESH TO CREATE MORE DEMONS.

THE ORGANIZATION NOW ACTIVELY TARGETS AWAKENED ONES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERE'S A JOB REQUEST OR NOT.

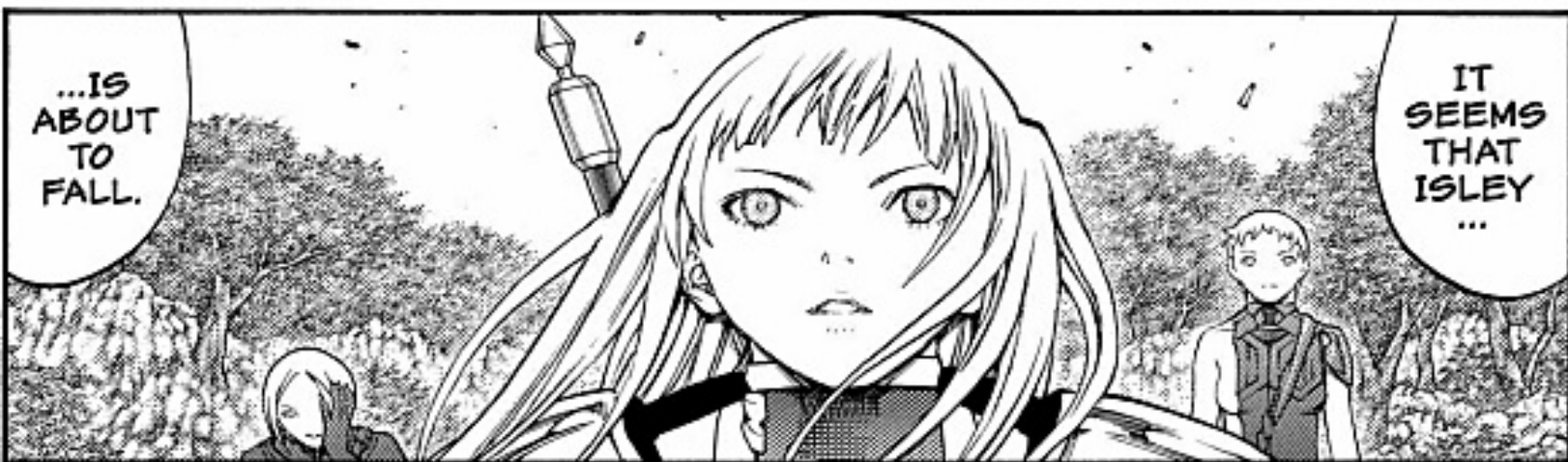
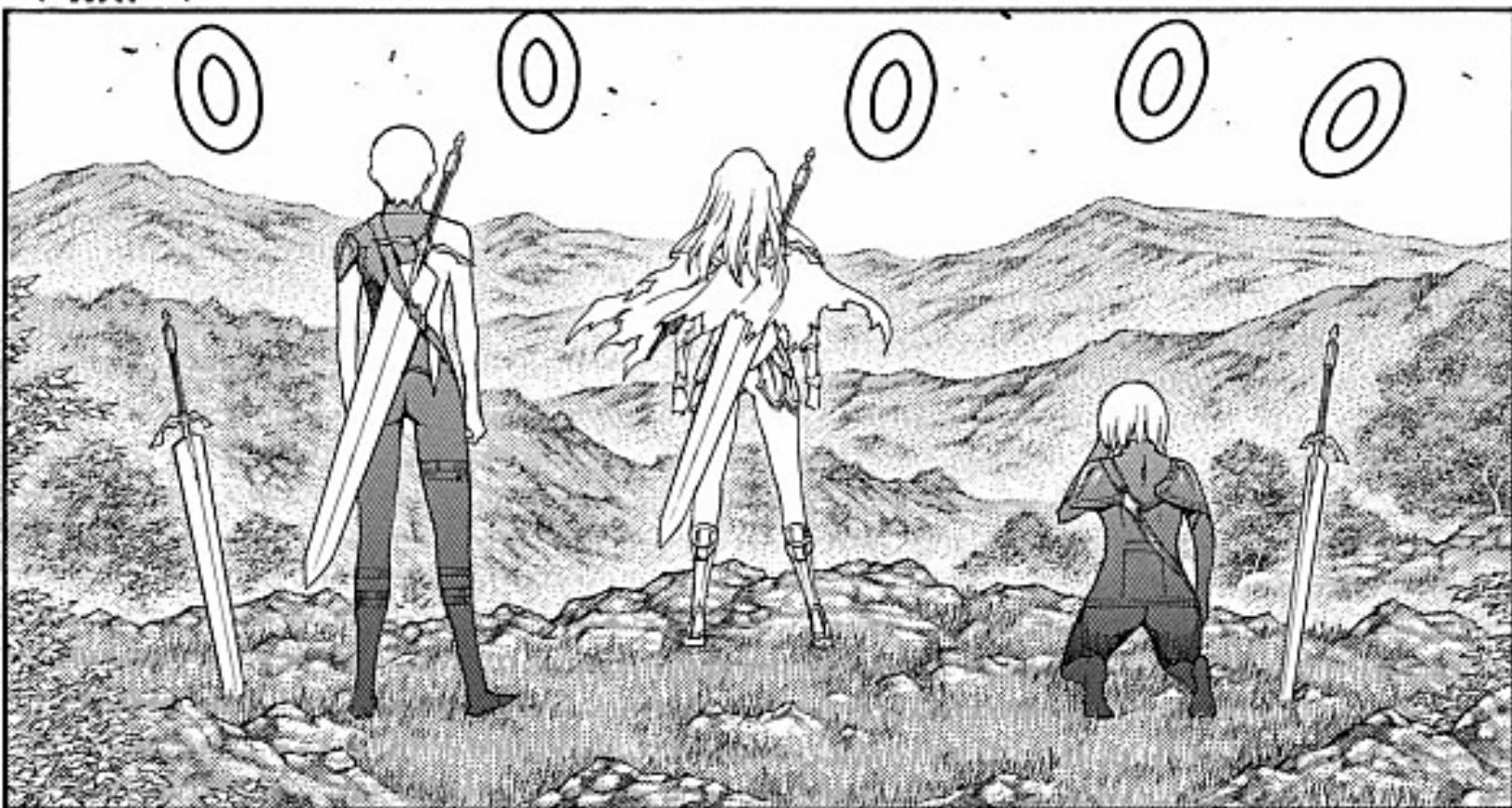


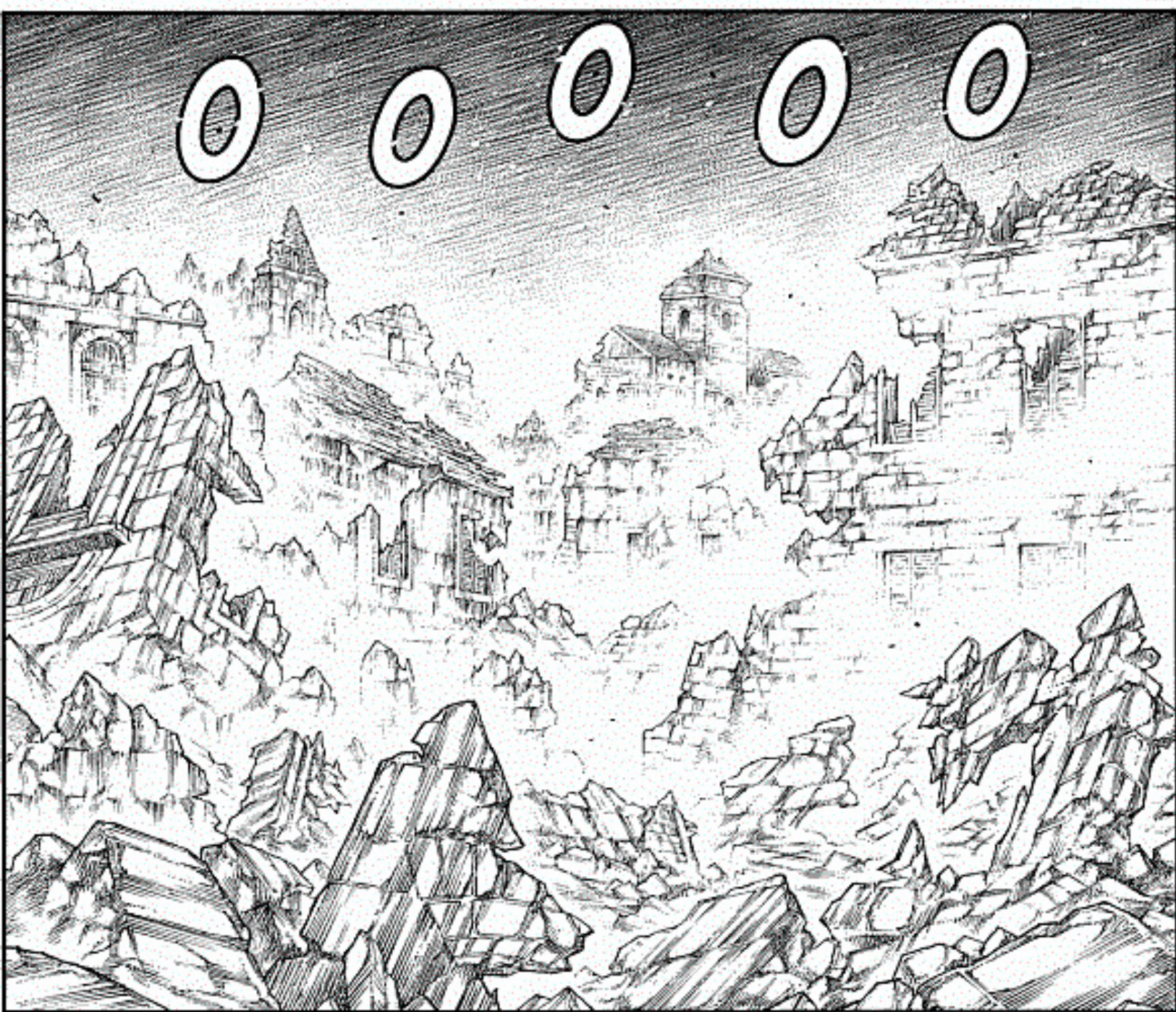
AND IF THEY HAVE MANAGED TO ACQUIRE A PIECE OF ANOTHER CREATURE OF THE ABYSS, CHANCES ARE THEY ARE ALREADY MAKING THEIR MOVE.

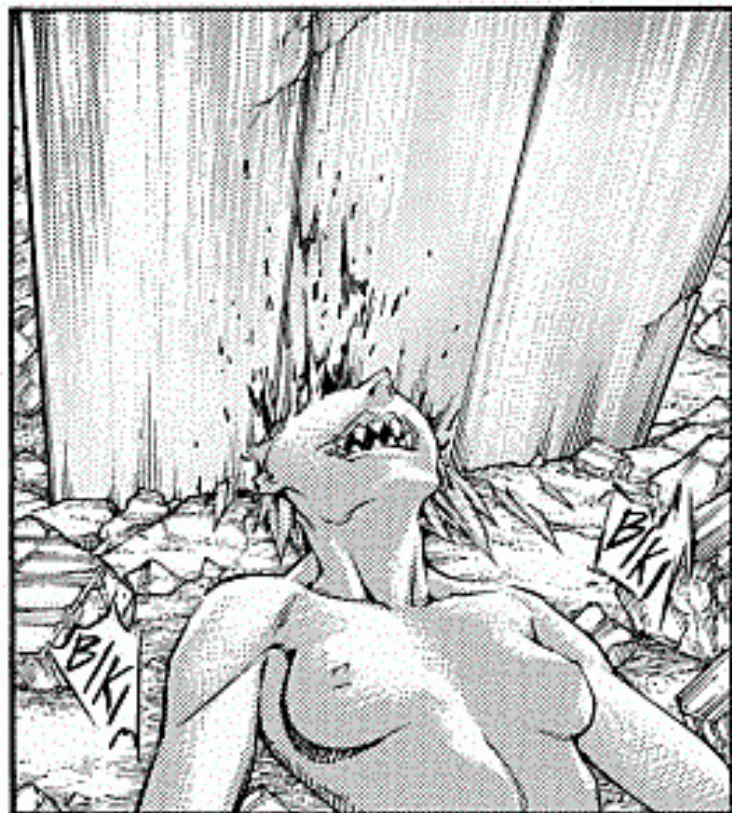
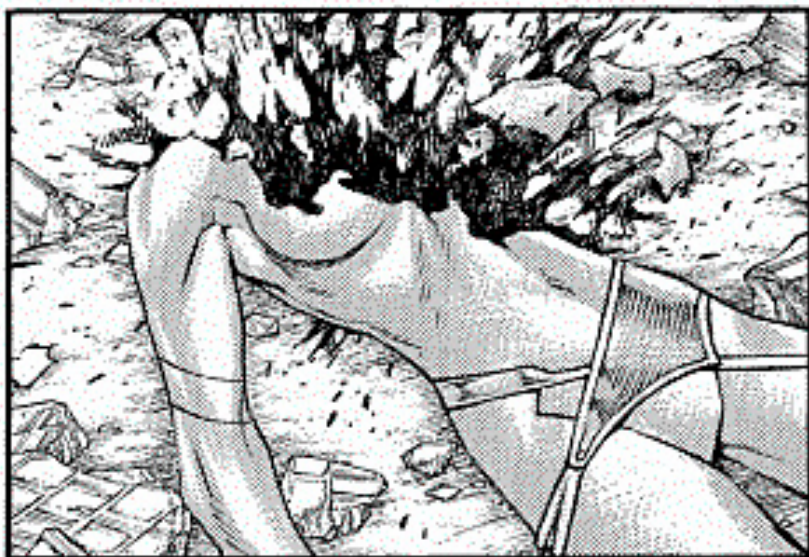
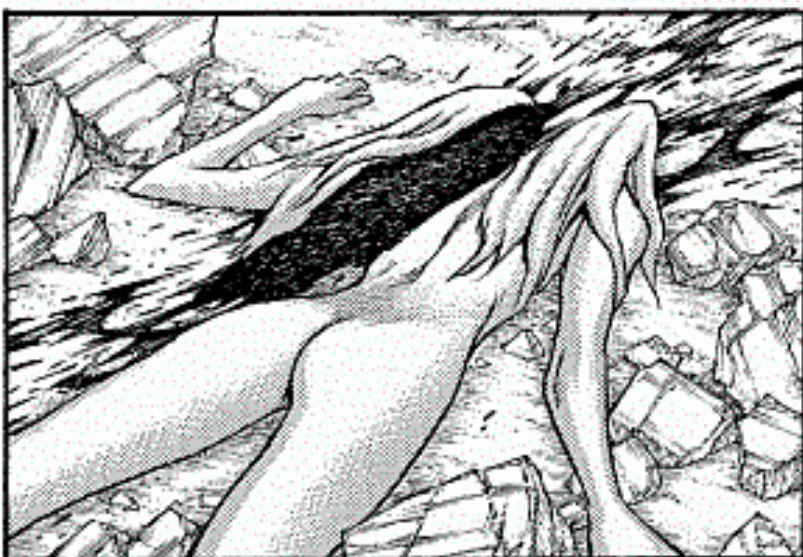
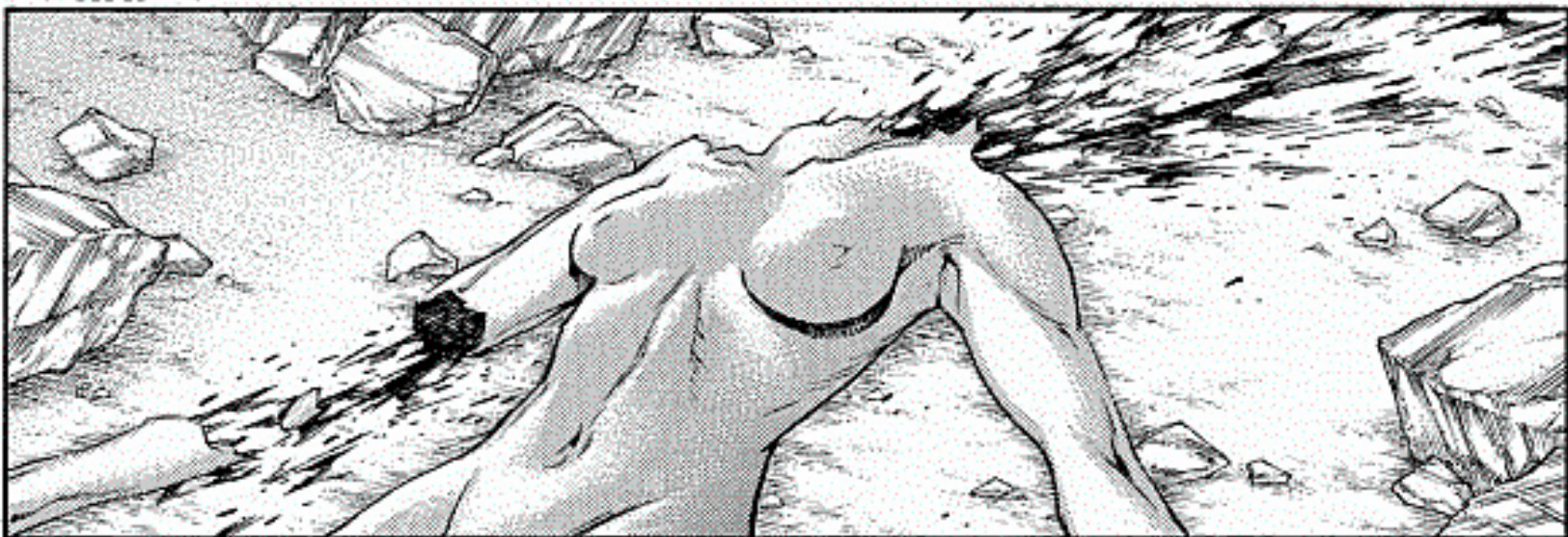
MY FEAR IS THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS A HIDDEN RESERVE OF MORE THAN JUST ELEVEN DEMONS.



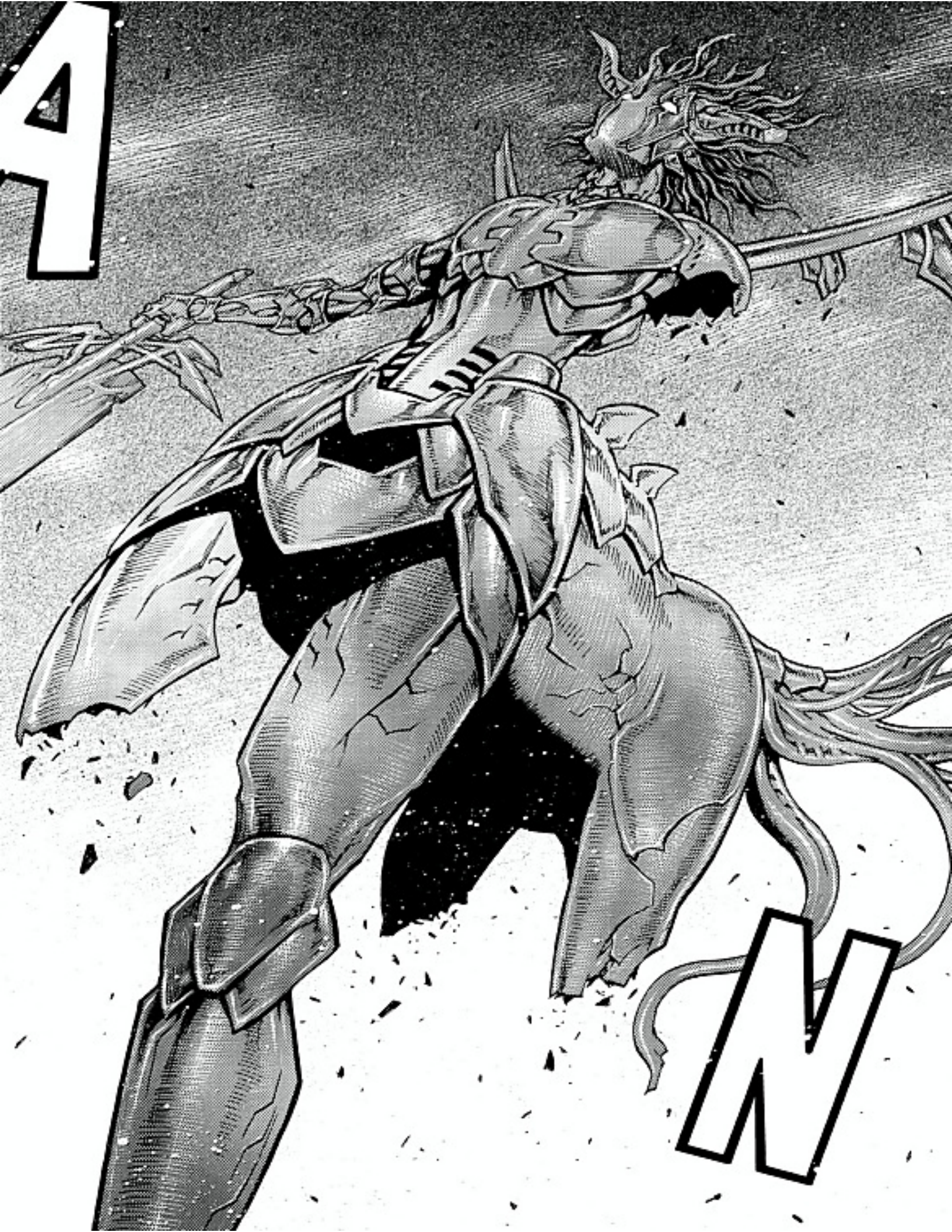
HUH?

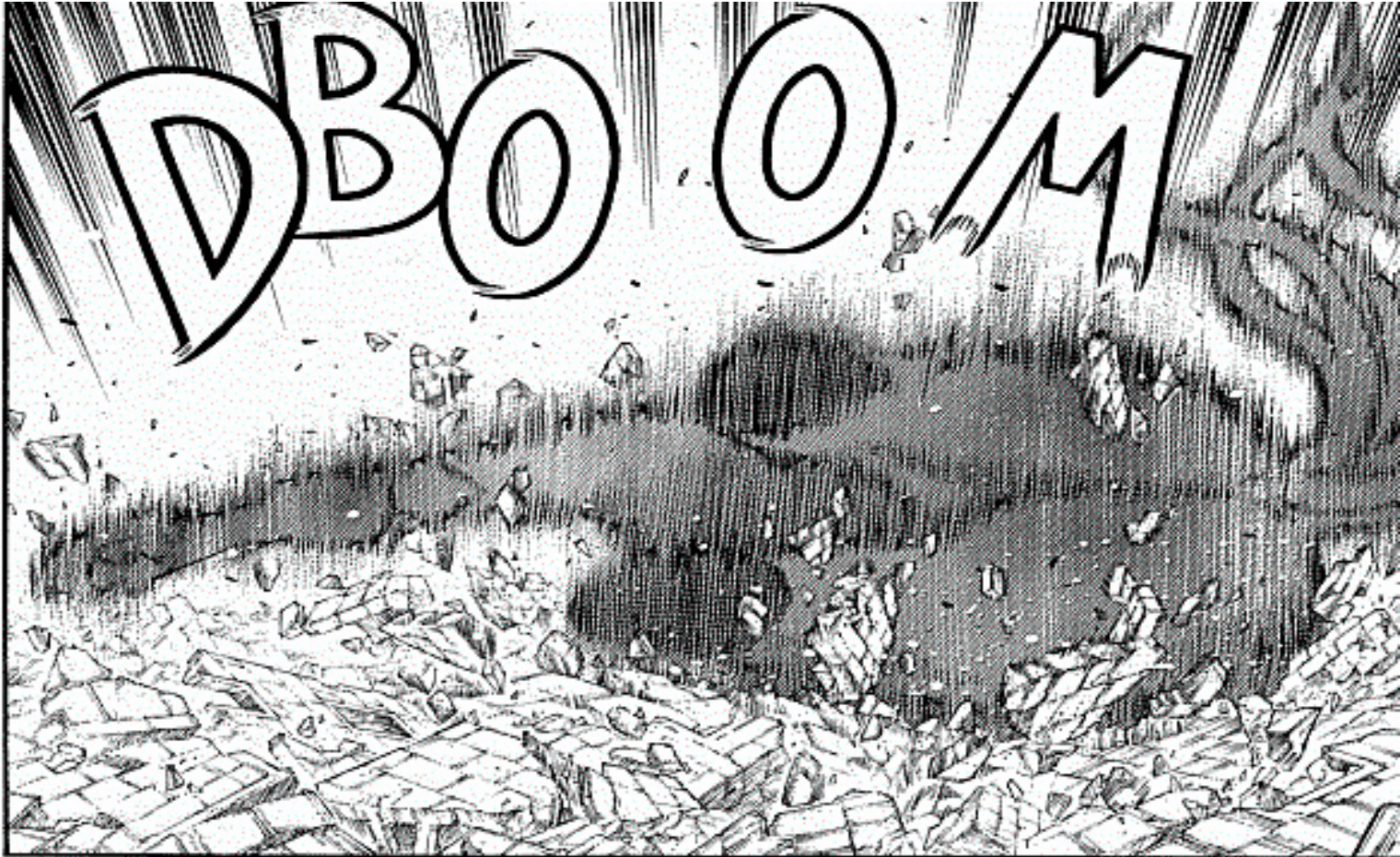












EVEN
WHEN
PRISCILLA
SHATTERED
HALF MY
BODY IN AN
INSTANT,
IT WAS...

A
PLEASURE
COMPARED
TO THIS.



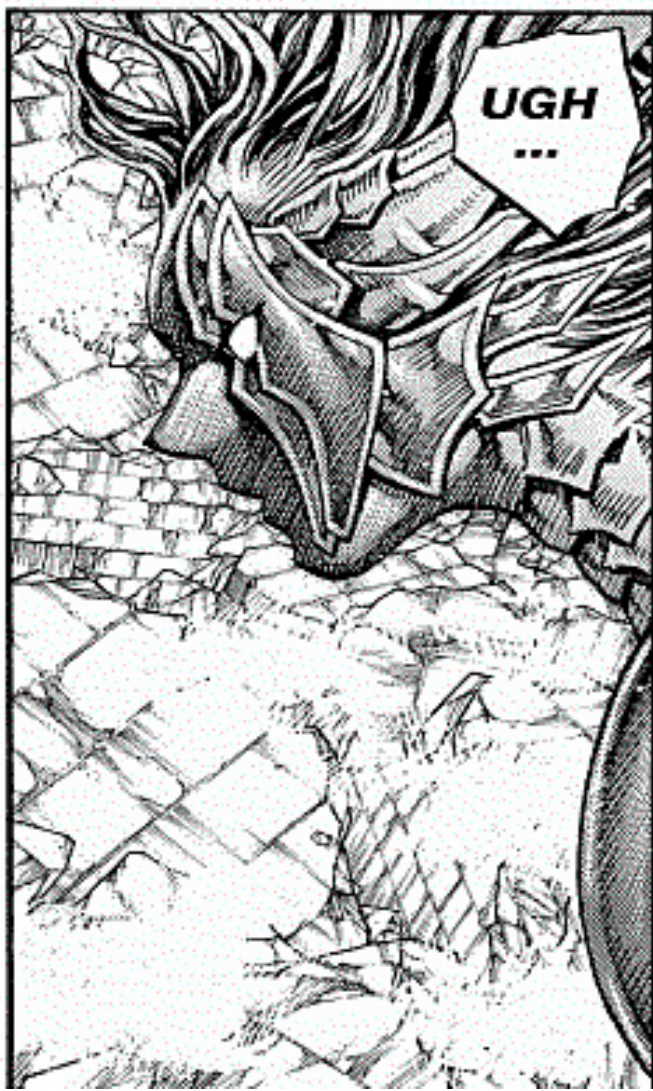
DAMN...

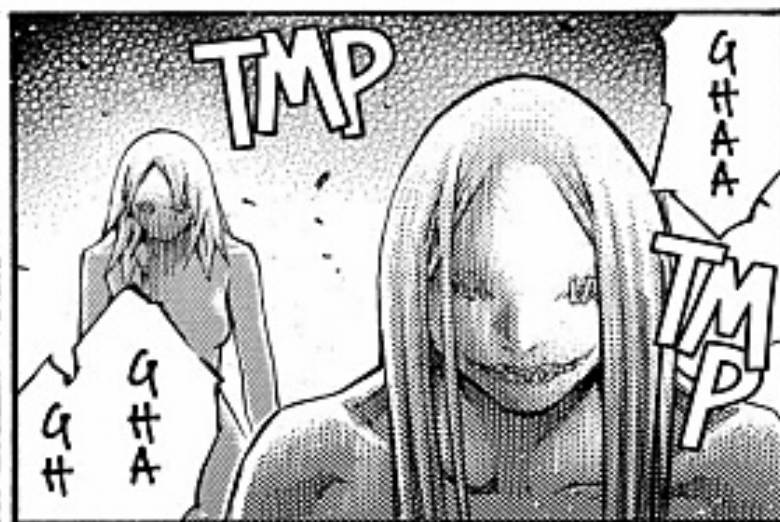
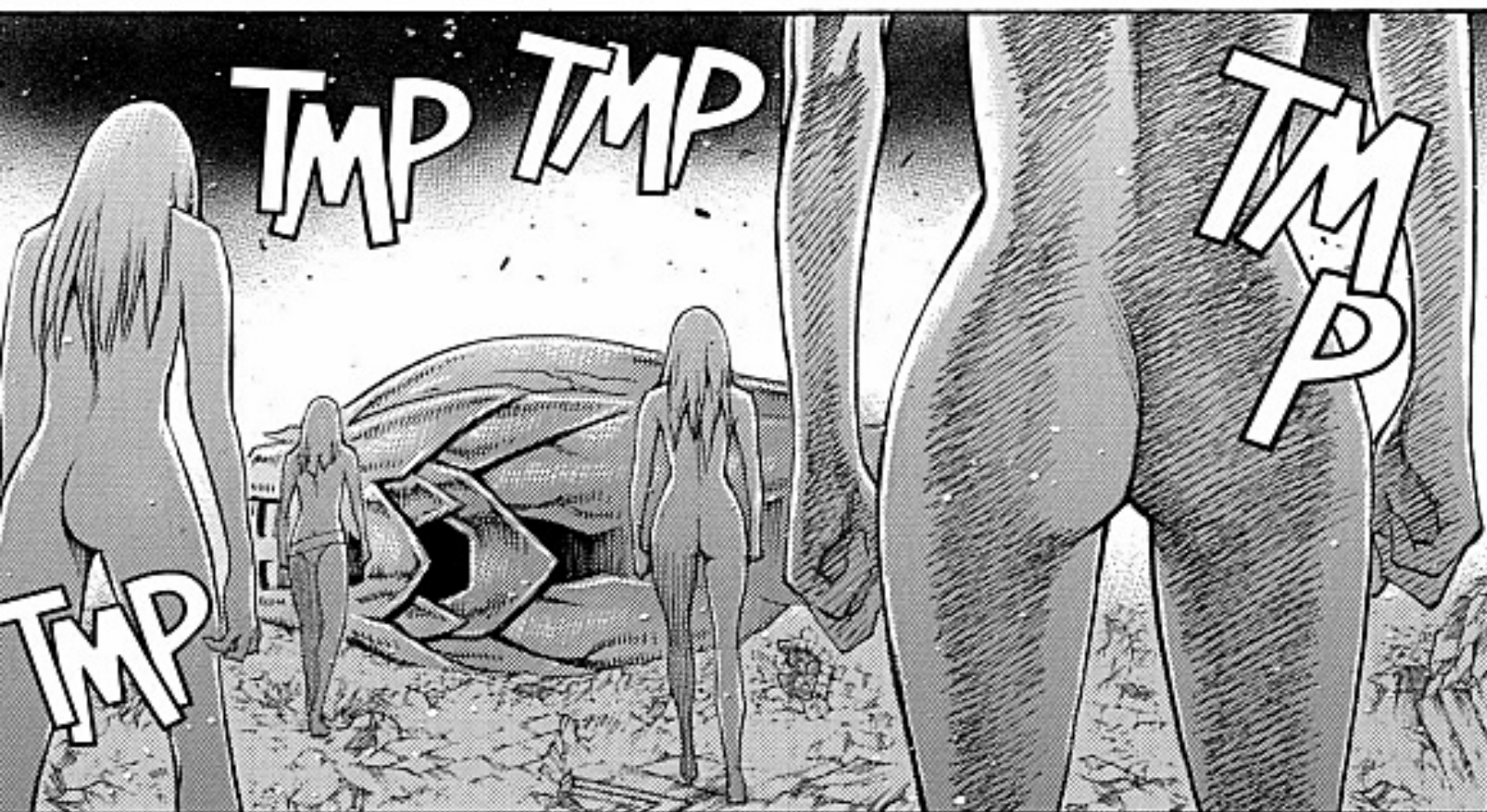
WHAT
AN
AWFUL
FEEL-
ING...

HAVING
ONE'S
BODY BE
SLOWLY
EATEN
AWAY,
BIT BY
BIT...

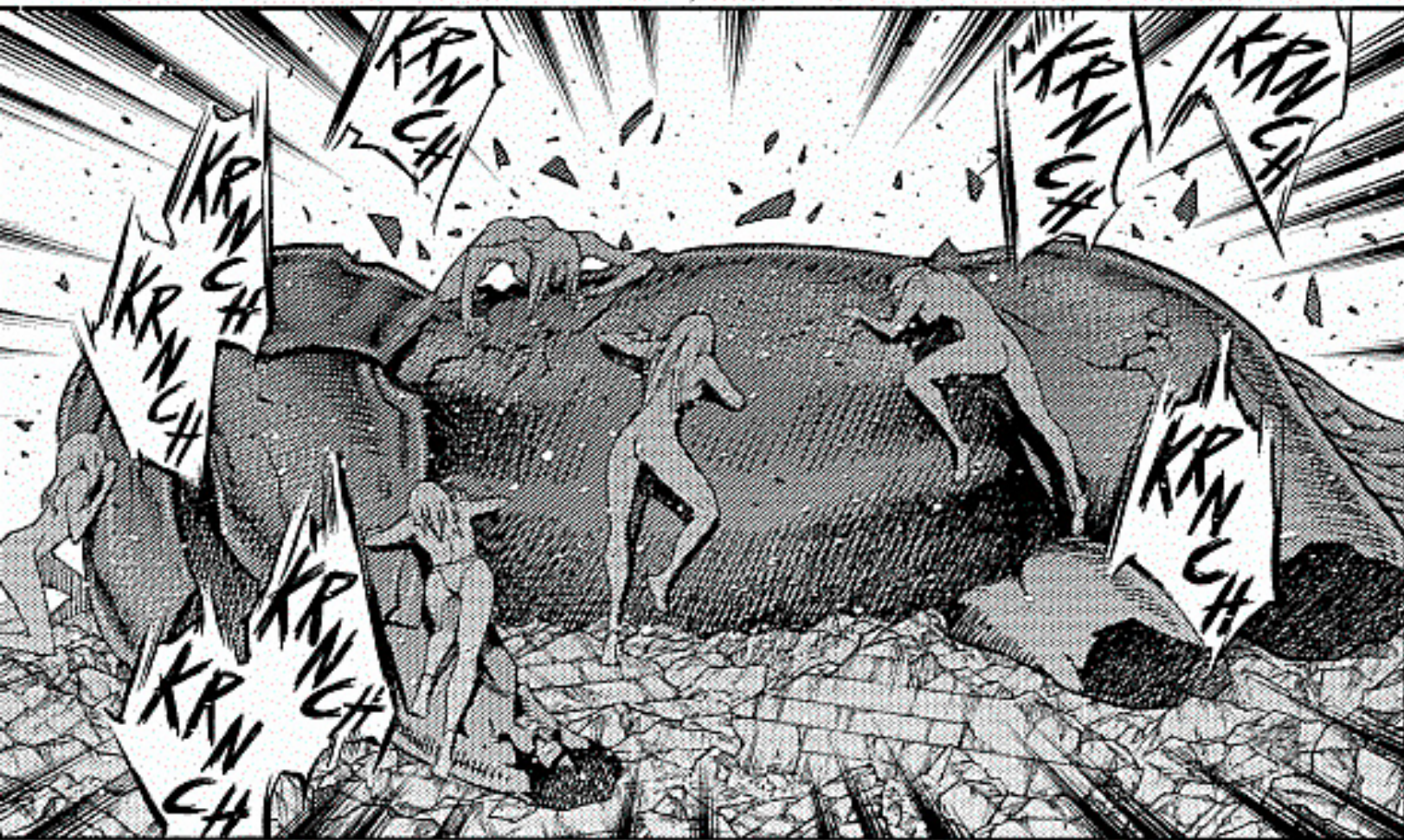
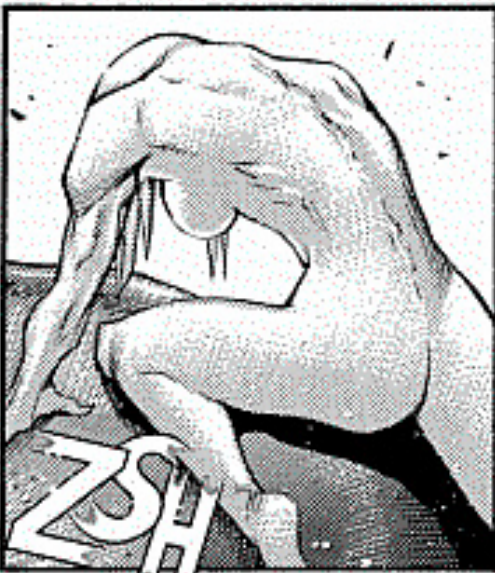


UGH
...





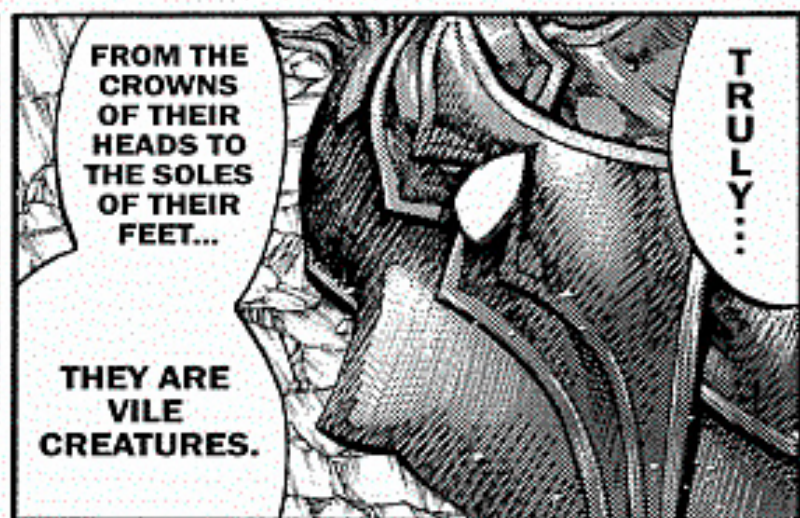
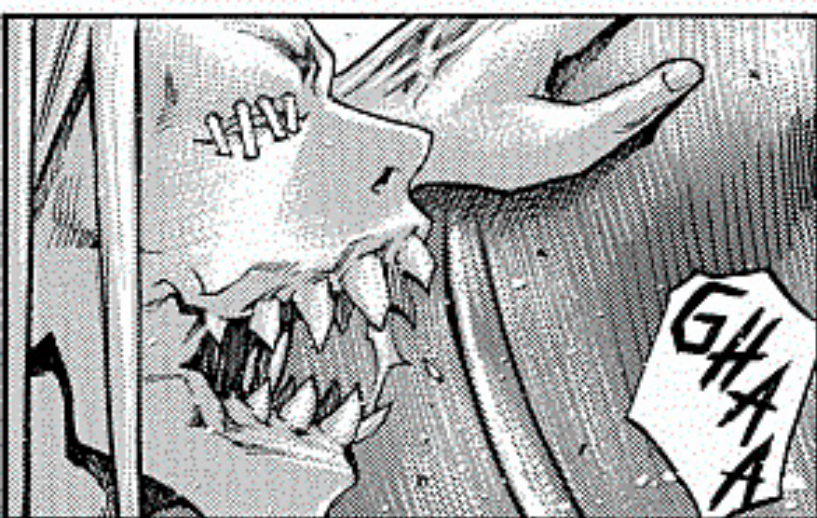
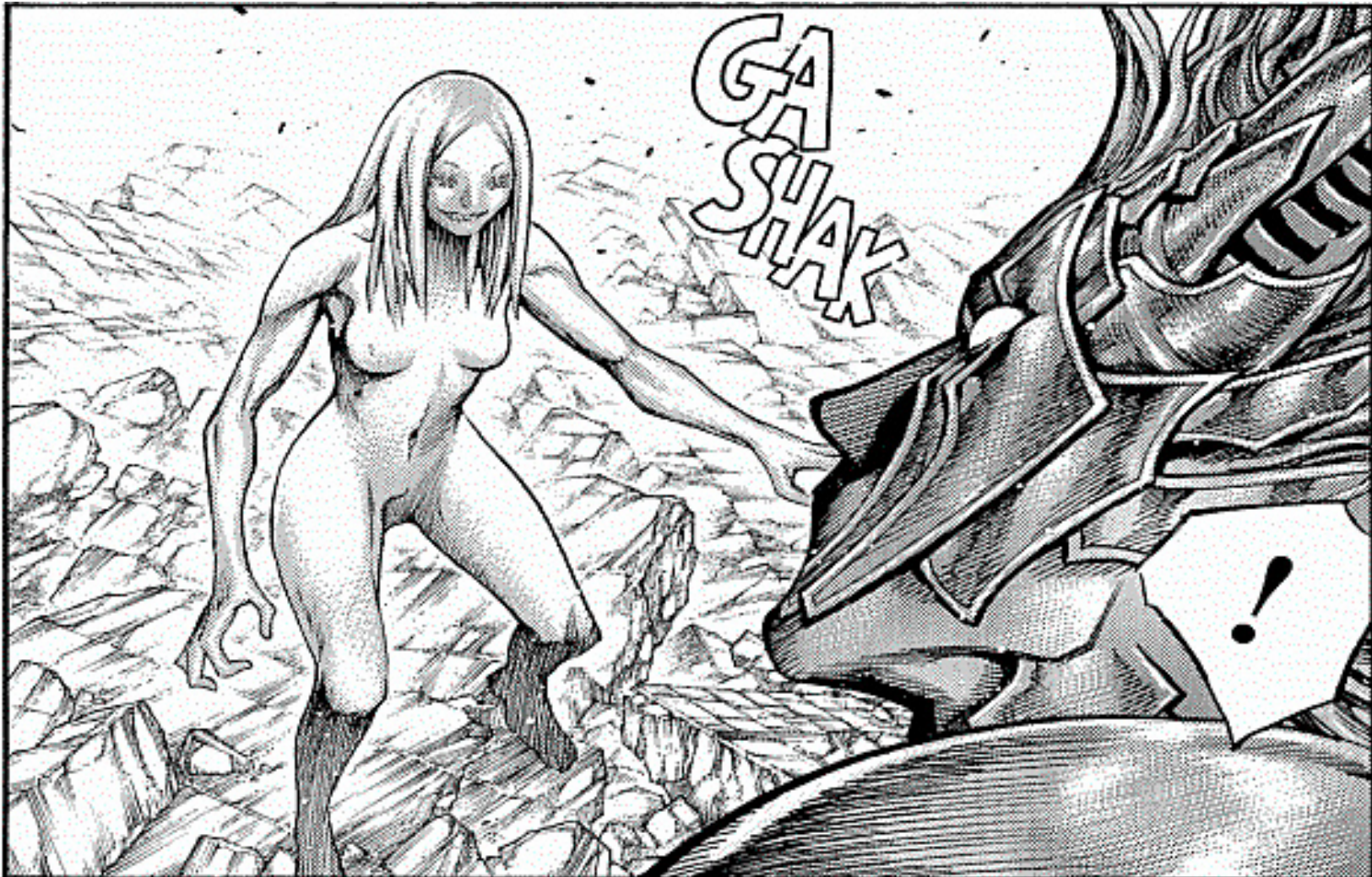


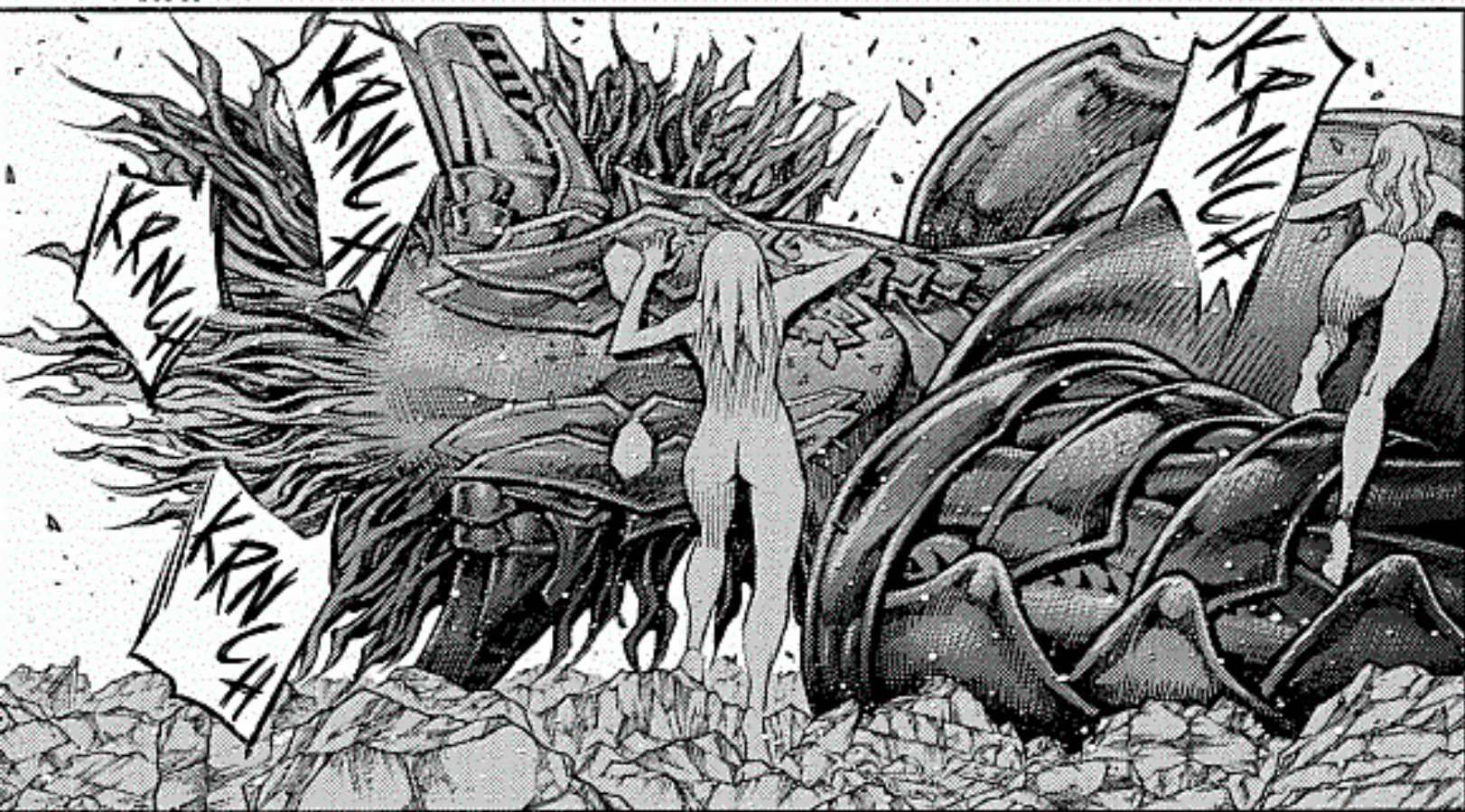


...WAS
SURPASSED
BY THE
RELIEF I FELT
WHEN THEY
WOULD
WITHDRAW.

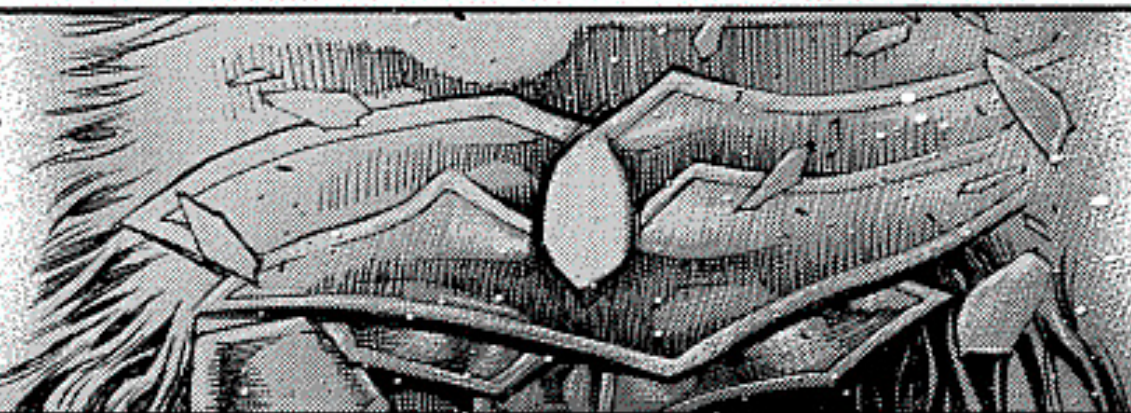


AT SOME
POINT,
THE ANGER
I FELT AT
BEING
UNABLE TO
KILL THEM...



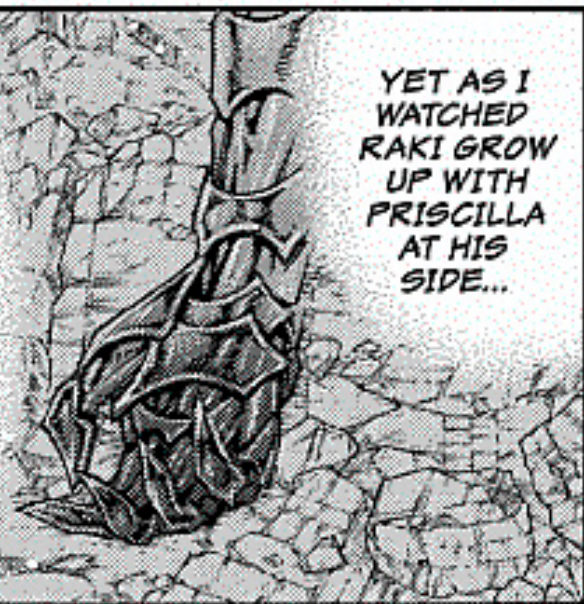


...WHEN I
ENTRUSTED
PRISCILLA
TO RAKI
AND DROVE
THEM
FROM THE
SOUTH.



IT
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
AROUND
THE
TIME
...

...I
REALIZED
THAT
I WAS
BECOMING
SATISFIED
WITH
FEEDING
LESS AND
LESS.

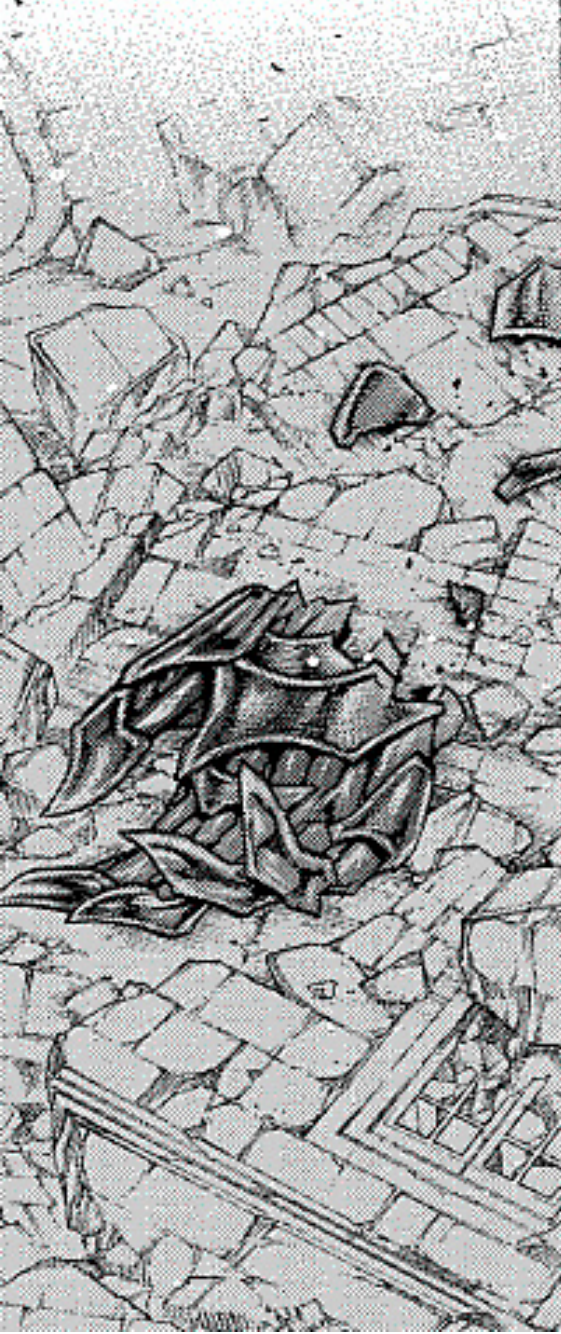


YET AS I
WATCHED
RAKI GROW
UP WITH
PRISCILLA
AT HIS
SIDE...

IT'S
STRANGE...
AT FIRST,
ALL I
WANTED...

...WAS TO USE
PRISCILLA
TO BRING
EVERYTHING
UNDER MY
CONTROL.

FOR
JUST A
LITTLE
BIT
LONGER,
I WANTED
THINGS
TO STAY
THAT WAY.



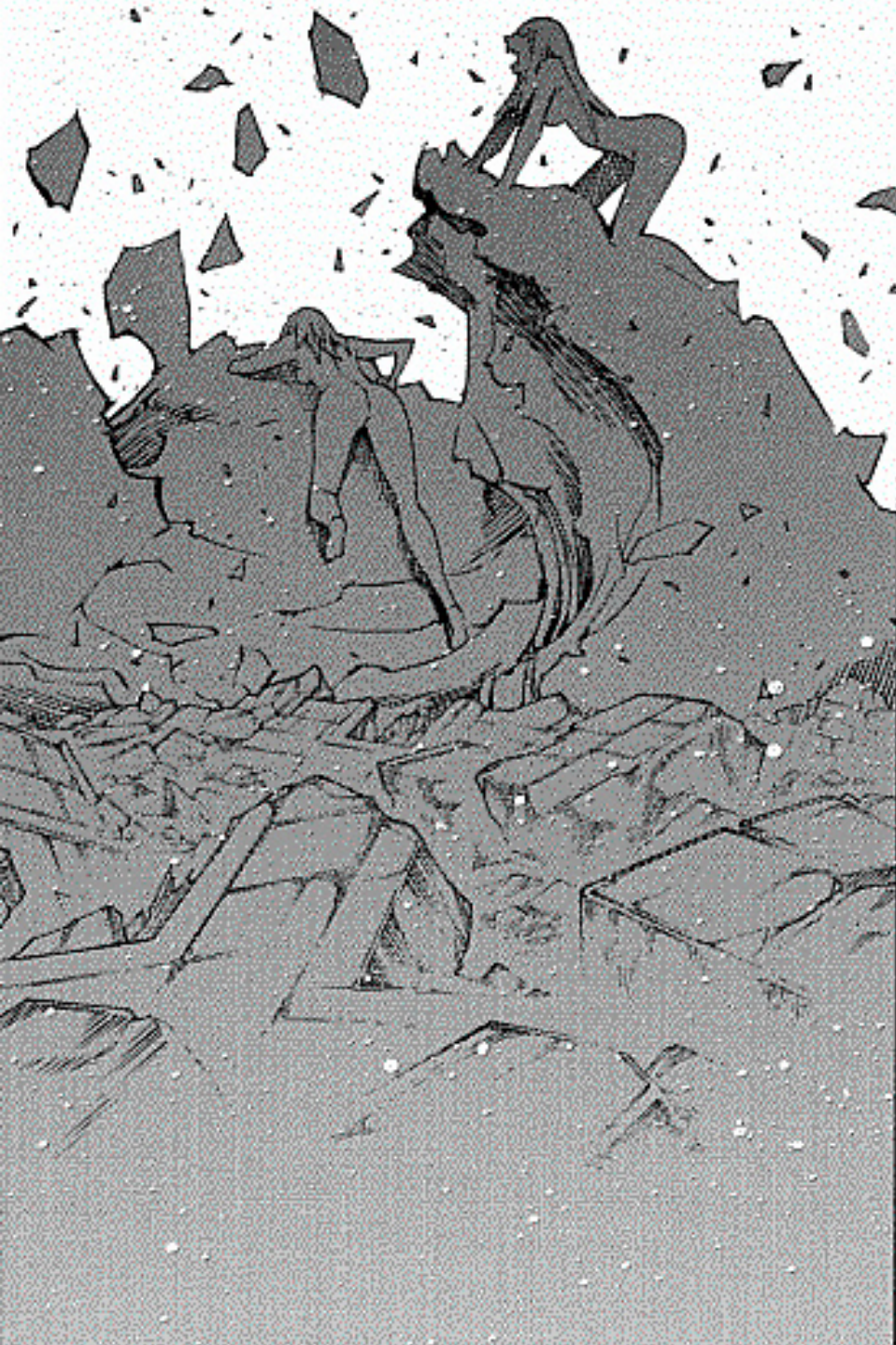
FOR
JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER...

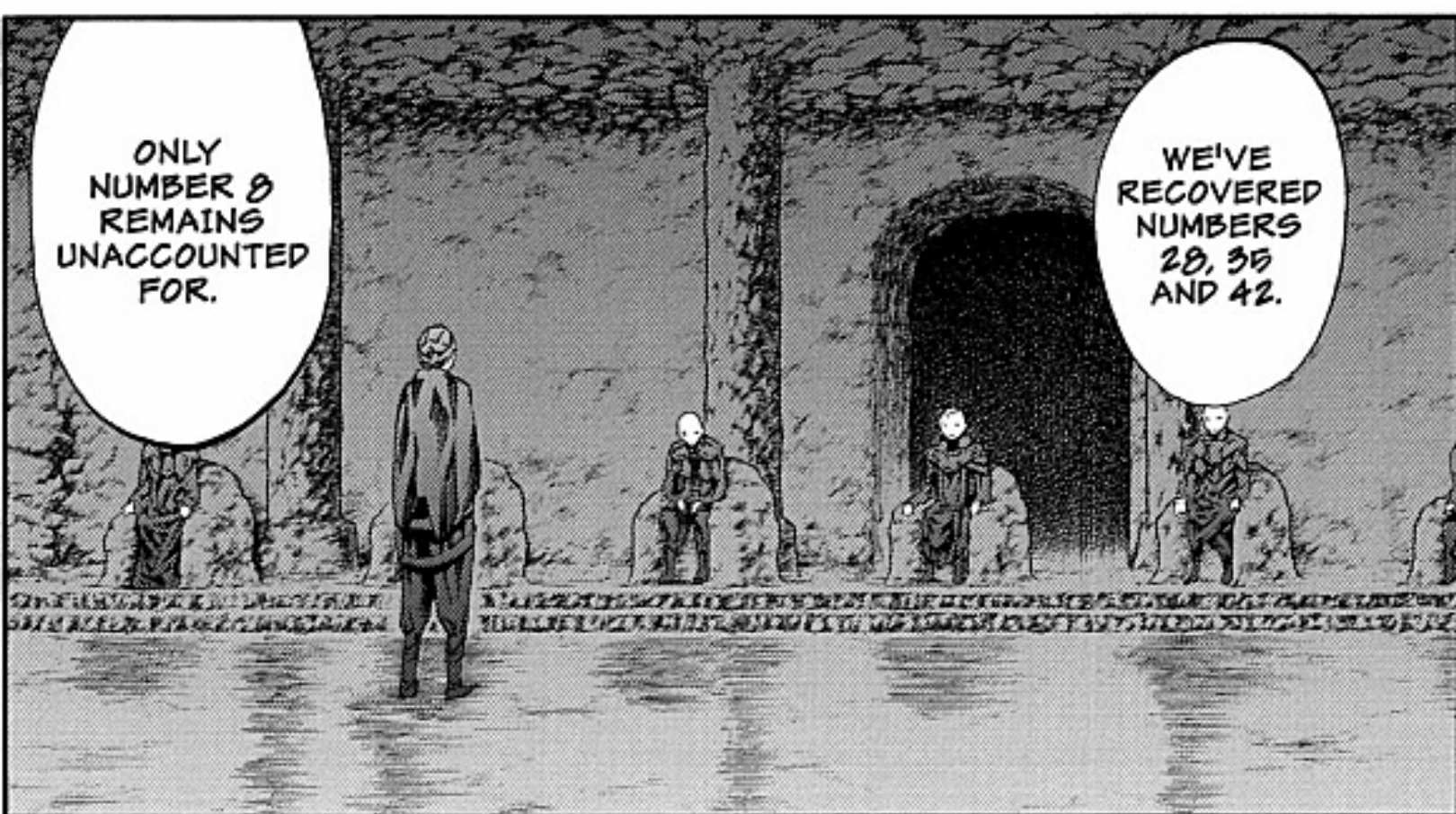
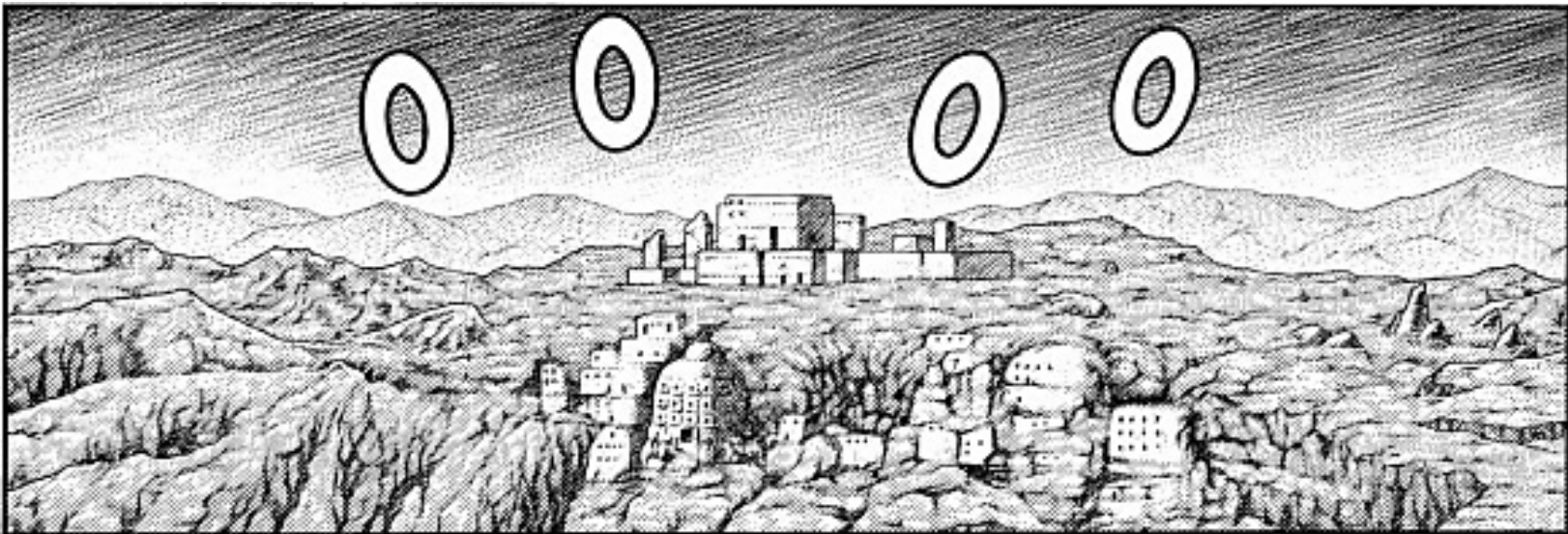
...WAS
NOTHING
BUT AN
ILLUSION
DOOMED
TO FADE...



EVEN
IF THAT
TEMPORARY
FAMILY...

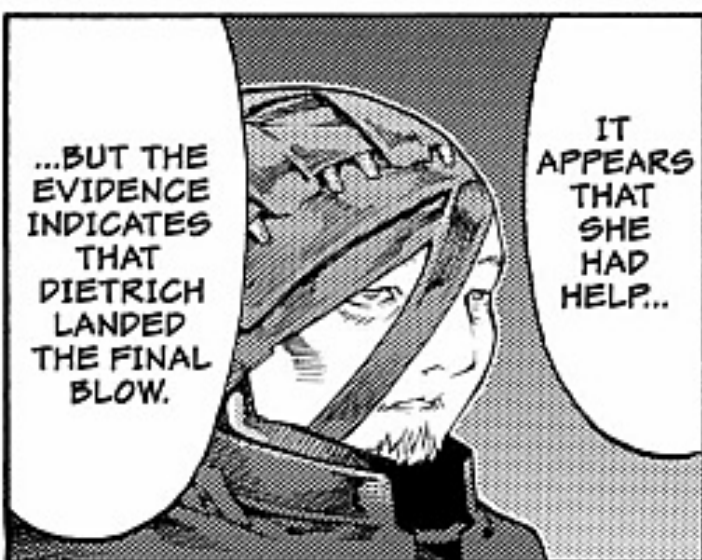
I DO
NOT
WANT
TO
DIE...





ONLY
NUMBER 8
REMAINS
UNACCOUNTED
FOR.

WE'VE
RECOVERED
NUMBERS
28, 35
AND 42.



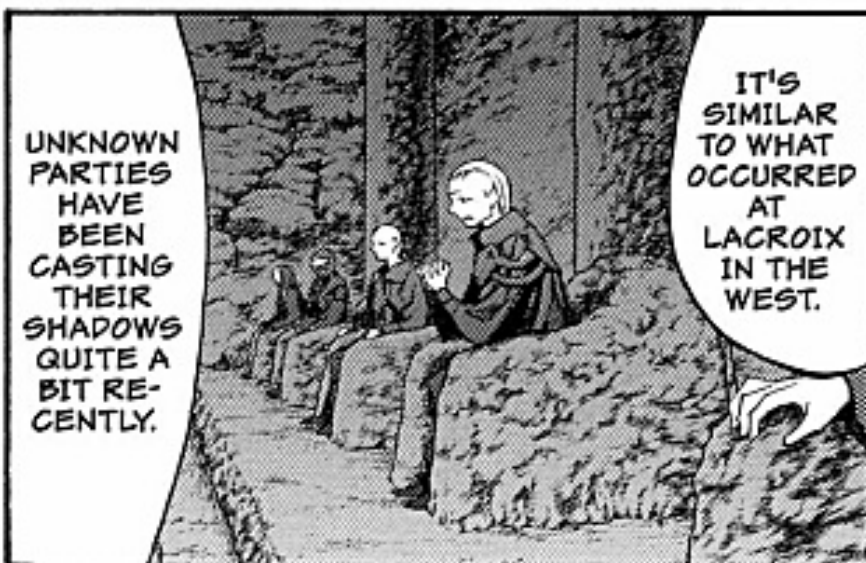
...BUT THE
EVIDENCE
INDICATES
THAT
DIETRICH
LANDED
THE FINAL
BLOW.

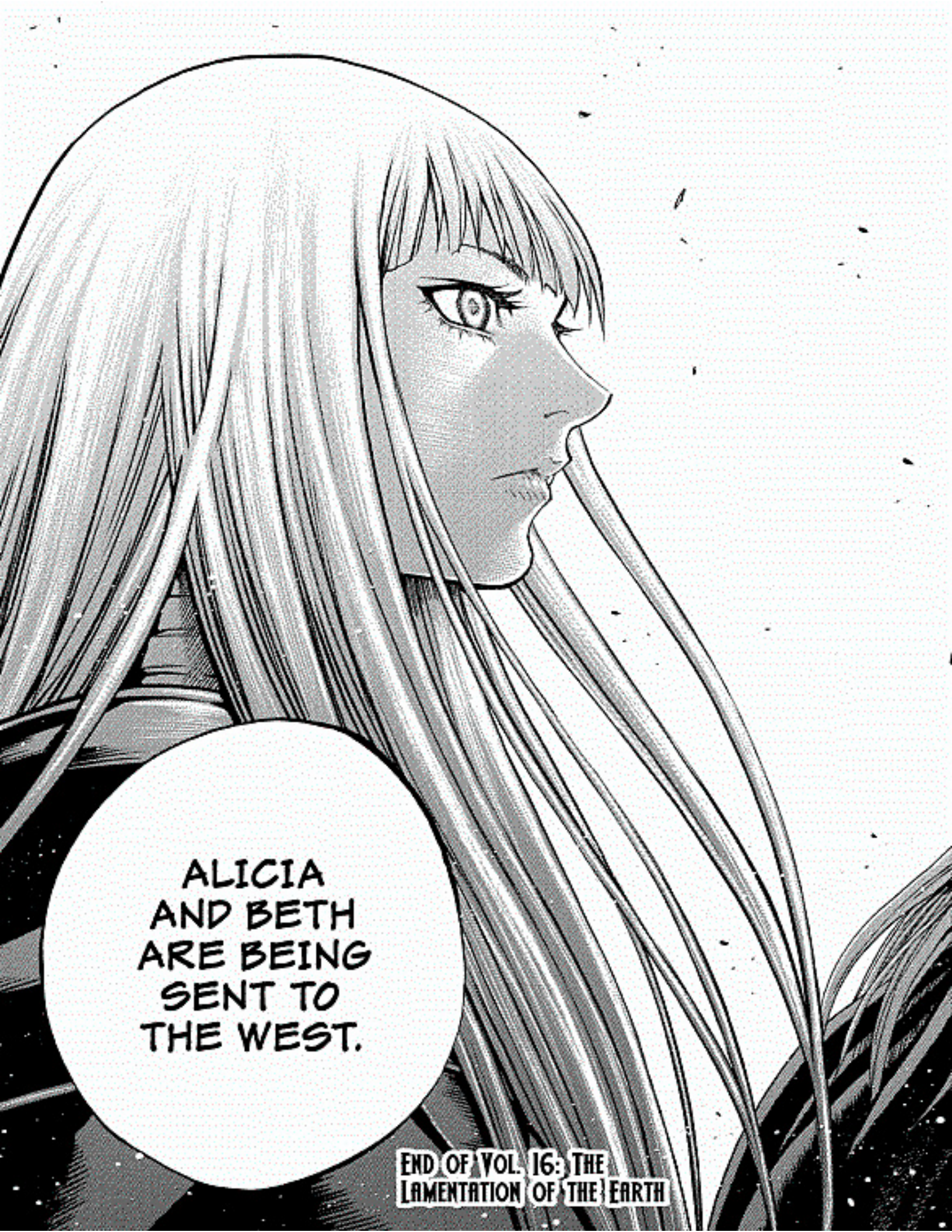
IT
APPEARS
THAT
SHE
HAD
HELP...



YES.
IT HAD
BEEN
CUT IN
TWO.

AND
WAS THE
CORPSE
OF THE
TARGETED
AWAKENED
ONE
THERE?





ALICIA
AND BETH
ARE BEING
SENT TO
THE WEST.

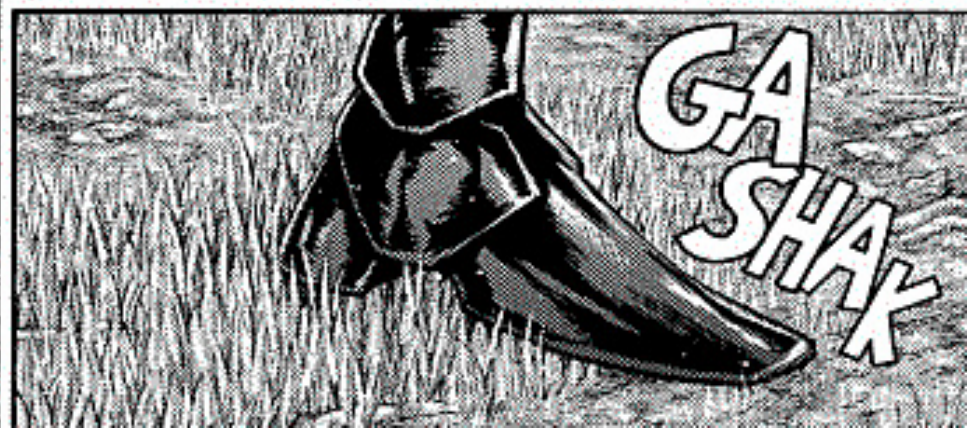
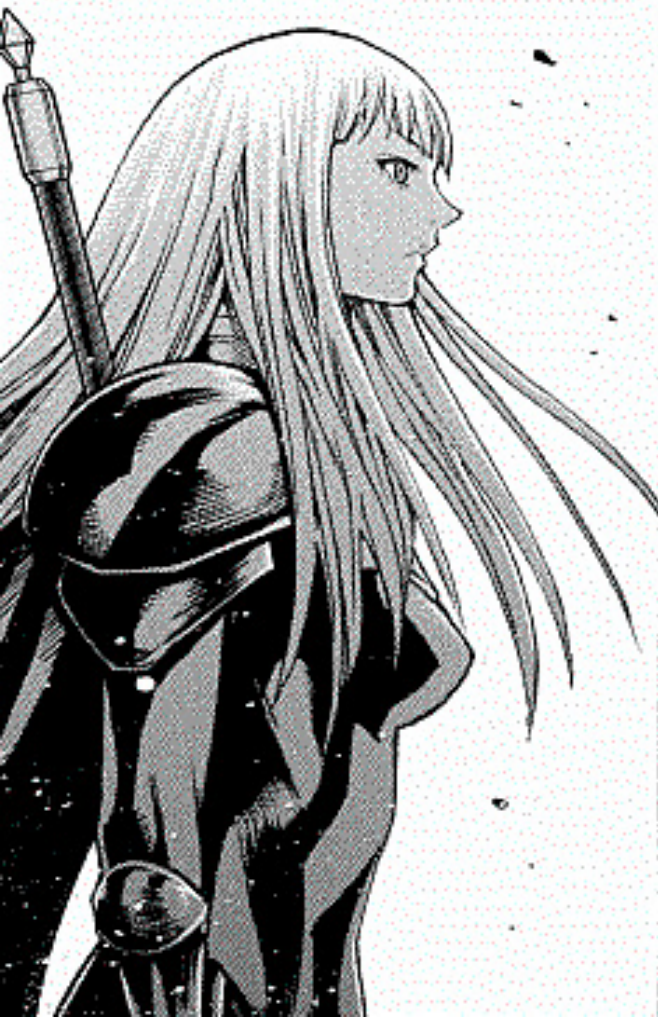
END OF VOL. 16: THE
LAMENTATION OF THE EARTH

NUMBERS
1 AND 2.

WE HAVE
RECEIVED
WORD THAT
ISLEY
HAS BEEN
DEFEATED
IN THE
SOUTH.

NOW THAT
THE BALANCE
OF POWER
BETWEEN THE
CREATURES
OF THE
ABYSS
HAS BEEN
BROKEN...

WE
CANNOT
TAKE OUR
TIME WITH
RIFUL
AS WE
DID WITH
ISLEY.





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